THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

January 20th—26th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 3

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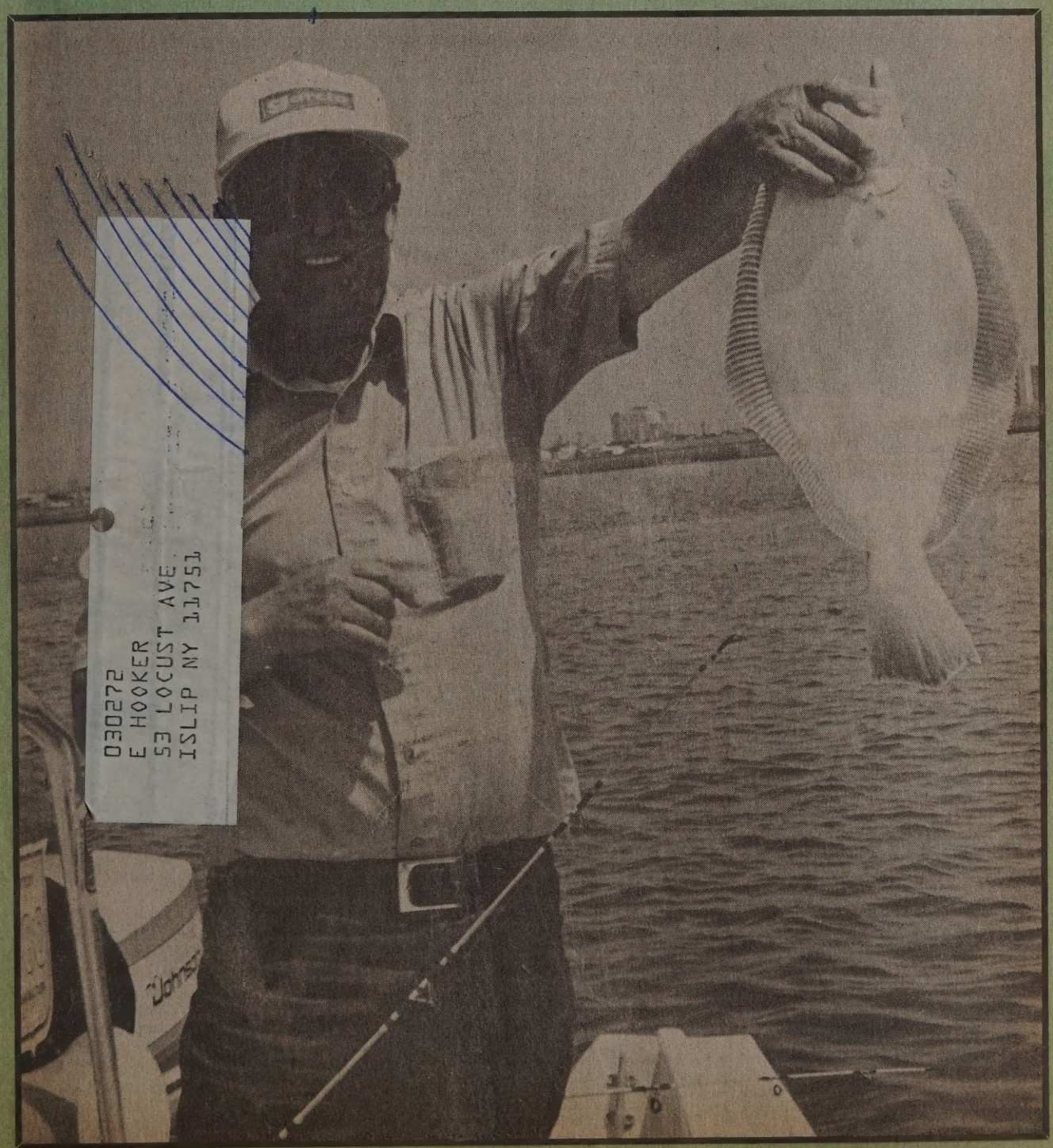

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EDITORIAL

FINALLY! A NEW SALT WATER BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP

Those of you who have been regular readers of The Long Island Fisherman will recall that on April 7, 1977 we printed an editorial entitled "The Case of the Purloined Launching Ramps." It was this editorial that began our campaign to have more state saltwater boat launching ramps on Long Island. We did a little investigation prior to that editorial and we learned that there were only five state-operated boat launching ramps on Long Island. Of these, four were on saltwater and the fifth on Lake Ronkonkoma. We also learned that there were 166 boat launch ramps on upstate waters. That's right—166 ramps upstate! Clearly, taxes collected from boat registrations and gas sold at marinas had been used to build launch ramps in an inequitable fashion. Since about 50 percent of the boats registered in New York are registered on Long Island, the disparity in ramps between upstate and Long Island borders on the unbelievable.

In August of 1977 we traveled to Albany to discuss the matter with officials of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. We were immediately impressed with the sincerity, concern, and honesty of the Commissioner and his staff. They promised us ramps and we believed them.

We began by studying a number of possible sites for state launch ramps on saltwater. In the months that followed the potential sites were narrowed down to a few because of a variety of reasons: costs, ownership, and inter-agency politics contributed to the final decision. It became obvious to all that there was one site that was ideal. First, it was already owned by the state. Second, it would provide a sheltered location from waves and weather. Finally, since access roads, a parking lot, and an old ramp were already on the site, the job could be completed at minimum cost and without delays, once all approvals were in place.

Of course there were many delays. The kind of delays that are par for the course in matters like this that involve financial, political, and local government considerations. We'll be honest. The delays dragged on so long that several times we were tempted to abandon a course of trust, support, and patience. Nonetheless, we stuck with our original game plan. Yet, through it all, we never lost confidence in the Commission and its fine people.

About a year ago our frustration level was high and we began to push the issue along a little bit. To help us, you'll recall we asked you to write some letters on this topic. Your letters came at a crucial time and were of no small significance in the final outcome.

That there were delays is of no consequence now, because what matters is that the job was done and there will be a new launch ramp. With a little luck from Mother Nature and a few breaks in the bureaucratic paper shuffle process, the ramp will be in operation during this coming fishing and boating season.

The new boat launch ramp will be at Kings Park. There are a number of documents that must be filled and approved and the Commission is already under way on these. For example, designs are now being prepared for ramp and road improvements. Also, there must be a traffic flow plan that will have to be approved by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Another document that must be prepared is an environmental assessment; however, since no major environmental alterations are expected we should have a reasonable expectation of avoiding a prolonged environmental impact debate that is not uncommon to similar, but more extensive projects.

Those of you who have been reading Newsday and other metropolitan area newspapers are aware that some employees of the Kings Park Mental Hygiene facility had resisted the construction of a state boat launch ramp at this site because for many years they have been using the facility as a more or less private marina and water access location. No one wants to deny these people a reasonable legal access potential for their own marine boating activities. Therefore, the state has been investigating approaches that could clear the way for the launch ramp facility without totally denying use of the area by the employees. The above statement is regrettably a rather convoluted way of stating a complex issue, but given the current state of discussions and intentions, it is the best that can be offered now. However, let us offer an example of how the problem could be handled in order to perhaps clarify the issue. Current employees might be grandfathered to continue to use the facility although new

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From May through September, the summer flounder is a favorite of many anglers in our area. Learn how to put together that "perfect" fluke rod on page 16.

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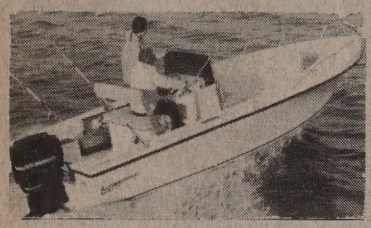

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BOATING SKILLS COURSE AT EAST ISLIP H.S.

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 of Islip is offering two Public Education Courses this Spring. Beginning on Thursday, February 10, 1983, instruction will be given in boating skills and seamanship for our power boat friends, and for our sailing friends, the class will be sailing and seamanship. Each class will be presented on Thursday evenings from 8 PM until 10 PM for 13 weeks. Classes will be held at the East Islip Senior High School on Redman Street, off Carleton Avenue in East Islip. Carleton Avenue is accessible from both Sunrise Highway and off the service road of the Southern State Parkway. Redmen Street is located between the Parkway and Sunrise Highway.

Both courses are designed to introduce boat owners of pleasure craft to the safety and legal requirements of operation and navigation. There is a $12 fee to cover the necessary text for the course. Upon successful completion of the course, a Coast Guard Auxiliary Course Completion Card is issued, and many insurance companies offer various discounts on their premiums to those who hold such a card. If any further information is requested, or if directions are necessary, please contact the Flotilla Public Education Officer, Pete Natale, at (516) 582-4574. Remember, February 10th at 8 PM, the Power and Sailing Classes. And to our boating friends everywhere, a safe and enjoyable boating season.

FREE INSHORE FISHING CHARTER FROM M.C.A. AT NY SPORTSMAN'S EXPOSITION

The Montauk Captain's Association will be represented at the 1983 N.Y. Sportsman's Expo at the Nassau Coliseum, January 26th-30th. On Sunday, January 30th, the M.C.A. will conduct a drawing for a Free Inshore fishing charter aboard one of the M.C.A. member boats. To be eligible, the lucky winner will have to register on the official M.C.A. entry form which will be available at their booth in the Nassau Coliseum.

The M.C.A. member boats have established for themselves a reputation for quality boats and fishing expertise in the world reknowned waters off Montauk. This area has logged such impressive catches as the 1080 lb. mako and the 76 lb. striper caught there.

Each July the MCA conducts its annual Charity Shark Tournament which has proven to be one of the most outstanding fishing tourneys of the Northeast. As a result of the contest, thousands of dollars have been awarded to various health, educational, and social charities, not to mention cash and other valuable prizes awarded to the participants. As well, much valuable scientific information has been gathered through the encouragement of tag and release activities by the participants in t his event. Watch for future details and entry forms.

Members of the M.C.A. will be at the booth to answer questions about fishing off Montauk and to offer advice about booking a rewarding sport fishing charter.

BOATING COURSE FLOTILLA 12-4

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-4 will conduct a 13-lesson Basic Seamanship course on boat handling, navigation, marine engines and related subjects starting on Wednesday, January 26, 1983, 8PM at the Martin Van Buren High School, Hillside Avenue at 231st St., Queens Village. Classes are open to all adults, 16 years and older.

You may register after 6PM by calling Kal Sekely, (212) 429-3553, or register in class on the 26th.

FREE BOATING COURSE

A 12-lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will be given by Flotilla 12-1 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary—one course to start Jan. 25, 1983 in Astoria, Queens at the V.F.W. Hall, 31-35 41st Avenue. Registration will begin at 7:30 PM at the same location.

Another 12-lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will start on January 26, 1983 at the World's Fair Marina (near Shea Stadium). Registration will begin at 7:30 PM.

Sailing course will start February 3, 1983 at the World's Fair Marina, registration starting at 7:30 PM.

All the courses will be presented by experienced instructors using the Auxiliary's highly acclaimed textbook and related instructional materials.

The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encouraged. The course is offered free, with a nominal charge for the text and materials.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a handsome certificate from the U.S. Coaast Guard Auxliary. For further information, call Lee Bonder at (212) 428-6813.

BOATING COURSE FLOTILLA 1-7

A 12-lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship will be given by Flotilla 1-7 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, beginning January 27, 1983, at the Sayville Community Center, Greene Avenue, Sayville, New York. Registration will begin January 20, from 7:30-9:30 PM at the same location.

The course will be presented by experienced instructors using the

Auxiliary's highly acclaimed textbook and related instructional materials. A wide area of subjects will be covered, including Boating Language, Rules of the Road. Legal Requirements, Use of Charts and Piloting, Marine Engines, Aids to Navigation, and more. Additionally, the classes provide an excellent forum for in-depth questions and answers.

The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encourage. The course is offered free, with a nominal charge for the text and materials. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a handsome certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For further information, call James Smith, at 589-1587, or George Busch, at 363-7112.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS 1983 OFFICERS

The Atlantis Anglers held their elections on November 23rd and the new officers are as follows:
President—John Oppenheimer
Vice-Pres—Allan Zaretsky
Treasurer—Neil Rose
Fishing Com—Ralph Horowitz
Recording Secy—Edward Vocel
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NOW THAT THE CRACK IS GONE

by William A. Muller

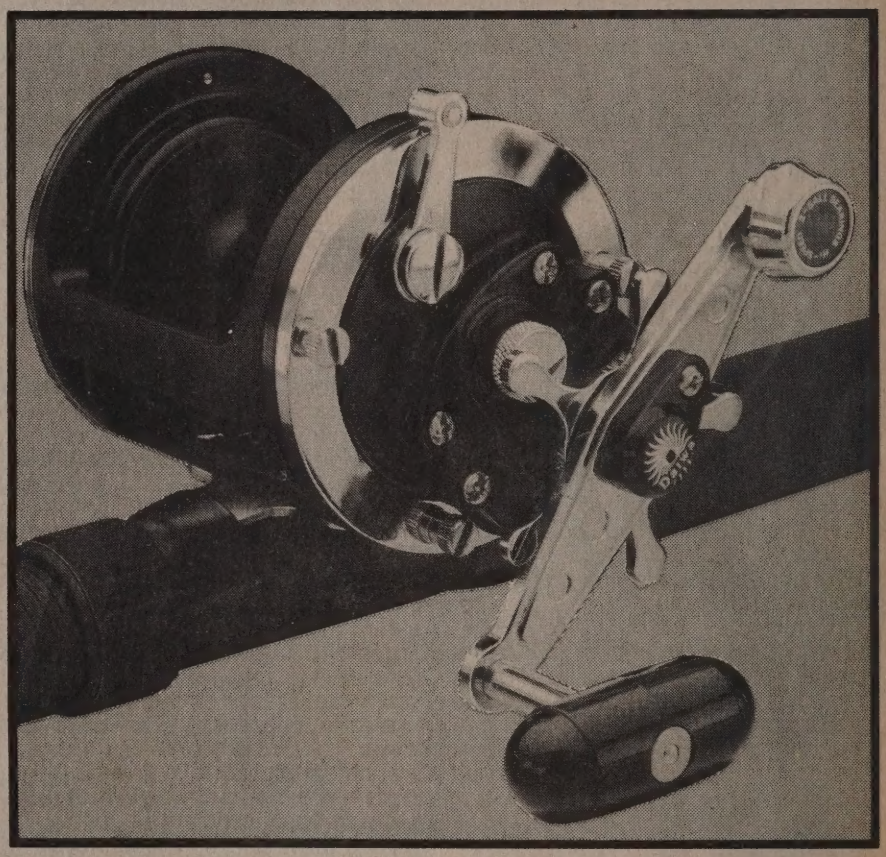
A further look at the options available to surfmen seeking a suitable replacement for the Crack 300.

Last winter we published the first in an ongoing series of articles intended to address the need for a serviceable surf reel now that the Crack is no longer available in the United States.

To refresh your memory, we concluded that several reels were worth your consideration. For medium duty surf reels, we found that the Shakespeare Sigma reel and the Penn S skirted spool reels were superior, although each presented certain drawbacks. For the heavyweight reel, we concluded that the Penn 706-Z was superior, although once again we did not like several design features. Our conclusions did not represent the belief that these were the only surf reels worth your attention, but as was clearly stated at the time, we recommended these of those makes and models that we had the opportunity to test. We have made it known to all interested reel manufacturers that we will test and report on any surf reels they wish to be considered for these reports. However, the understanding with the companies is, as always, that we will not bend the truth in our reports. We will call them as we see them.

It is important to remember that the Crack was not the reel used by all surf fishermen. Indeed some used conventionals while others found brands like the Mitchel-Garcia 386 and 496 and the Penn 704 and 706 (green) very acceptable. The Mitchell-Garcia 386 and 496 are no longer available either, so that limits the field. It is nonetheless true that the hard-core pro of the surf generally preferred the Crack reel over all others. Many of these die-hard surf nuts have held onto their Crack reels and scrounged up old reels and spare parts in order to keep the reel in service for as long as possible. However, even with the best of care, nothing lasts forever. Since it has been a few years since the Crack was last sold in the United States, the point has been reached by many surf fishermen where their Cracks are beyond repair and they now seek a replacement reel.

Since the Part I article ran last winter, we have only been approached by one manufacturer for testing and report. Therefore, we will dedicate this article to our findings on the Daiwa reels we tested.



I was quickly contacted by Lou Rosado, our local man from Daiwa. Lou is a knowledgeable fisherman and very helpful guy. He put me in touch with Mr. Rex Gerlach in California. Mr. Gerlach requested that we test the following reels: the BG60, BG-60SC, BG90, and one of the reels from their new SeaLine series that can be used as a conventional surf reel.

If you'll recall, an April blizzard set back the progression of spring fishing by at least a couple of weeks and, therefore, May was basically a dry month for the surf enthusiast. June, however, was much better and weakfish began to cooperate. The BG60 reels are medium sized surf reels and it seemed ideal for the 10 foot light action sticks I like to use in the spring. Well, my wife Susan eyed that BG60 right away and wanted to try it. It was a logical suggestion since the Zebco she was using (replacing an ancient Mitchell) had started to corrode in places. You'll recall we warned about this problem with the Zebco in spite of a drag like butter. I put that BG60 on her pole and off we went to catch weaks. It was obvious to me from her comments that I would never get my hands on that reel. My wife is a tough critic of reels and, no offense Honey, she usually has a complaint or two about every reel. This time there were no complaints. She said the balance of the reel was superior and she was convinced it improved her casts. She liked the angle of the handle which she described as "extremely comfortable" and she like the large wooden handle which she said made it easier to grip and control. She liked the drag which she described as the smoothest she has ever used. In short, she liked everything about it.

Naturally, I got the job of stripping it down after it was used heavily. I found no signs of wear either inside or

out. Therefore, we conclude the BG60 to be a superior reel and recommend it to you. The BG60C is the same reel except that it is self-centering. We did not care for this feature because it allows the spool and handle to rotate virtually 360° which can cause the bail to close down on a powerful cast and at the very least, changed the balance of the reel during the cast.

The season moved along as it usually does and it wasn't long before we were into some of that fall fishing. Because we use big plugs and big hunks of bait we like a bigger reel and rod combo for the fall fishing. We put the BG90 on the 12 foot graphite rod that Daiwa sent along for us to test as well. More about the rod later. The reels caught bluefish—monster size blues. The drag is smooth, but only after I replaced several drag washers with Teflon ones. The original drag was a bit too sticky for my taste. Otherwise the features of this reel are basically the same as for the BG60. That is, the angle of the handle is great (a problem noted in several other reels). I, too, like the cyclindrical wooden handle; indeed it provides a solid grip and good leverage. Because the reel is an external trip design, the bail cannot rotate no matter how hard you cast. The tendency for bails to snap closed is a drawback in many reels now on the market.

Speaking of bails. Many surf fishermen, including myself, prefer a manual pickup to a bail mechanism. I like to keep one or two reels around with bails for use in the cold weather when the fingers get so numb that you can't feel the line for the pick-up. Back to the point. This reel comes with a large roller and the bail wire can be cut off to convert to manual pick-up. In some reels the roller will flop around when the wire is removed and the roller plate and attachment area has to be secured with a small screw or stainless steel wire insert. Not so for this reel. The easy conversion may be attractive to many fishermen. We suggest to Daiwa that they make a BG90M (for manual pickup) available. Penn has found this option a successful marketing tool and it shouldn't hurt Daiwa. The reel is tough inside and out. We did not have a problem with corrosion and salt or sand build-up was no problem either. In our opinion it is a superior heavy duty surf reel and we recommend it. The only significant objection we have to these reels is that they are heavy. However, the Crack was a heavy beast, too, so that may not matter to many surf fishermen. However, we do believe the reels can be made lighter by simplifying the drag system and the gear system. Sometimes, engineers over-engineer. The Crack did the job with far less parts. These changes would allow for a smaller housing which would also save some weight, without diminishing the durability of the reel as would happen if the metal used for the housing were of thinner gauge. We believe these suggestions are worth consideration by Daiwa.

With regard to conventional reels. Many surf fishermen still prefer a conventional reel. Indeed, so do I for baitfishing although last fall I used mostly spinning for baitfishing because a quick conversion to tins was at times necessary. Nonetheless, conventional for bait has it advantages. The SeaLine Magforce SMF 170 we tested was terrific and we rate it along with the Ambassadeur 900 and 9000C as well as the Shimano Triton. The Triton is a compact powerhouse and it is light. The drag is excellent and the balance outstanding. All of these reels feature anti-backlash features, cast well, and boast durable drags. We like them all and recommend them all to you. In fact, there are many conventionals that are superior on the market today. We believe, for large conventional reels, that the angler has at once an easy and a hard choice. Easy because almost any one he or she buys will be worth the investment and hard because under such circumstances, it is always hard to choose. In any event, some of you guys who are getting more and more into baitfishing should think seriously about the purchase of one of these fine conventionals. Perhaps some of you just getting into baitfishing have had some trouble getting decent casts out of your often whippy spinning sticks. Try conventional reels and rods. Conventional rods can be stiffer and still produce distance because of the way the line comes off the spool.

A word about the Daiwa white graphite rod (912 ST). It was a two-piece rod (something I argue strongly against), a fold-down first guide (something I argue strongly against), and a rapid taper (something I don't like in a long stick). The two-piece feature didn't bother me as much as I thought it would. I'd still rather have a one-piece rod, but the glass to glass (graphite) connection used on this rod was a deep cut and manufactured with close tolerances. Therefore, there is little tendency for the top part of the rod to jump out. It is typical of two piece rods that they do not bend uniformly because of the ferrule. In this case, owing to the graphite composition and the glass to glass connection, the bend was uniform. The rapid taper wasn't as bad as it might have been because those graphite sticks can handle a lot of lure or sinker weight. I still would prefer a one-piece model, with a medium taper, and a guide that doesn't collapse, but I must admit the rod manages to overcome many of the objections most surf fishermen have to these features. I know there are a lot of you out there who need that two-piece rod because of space limitations and likewise the collapsible guide, but believe me, we're better off without those features no matter how well they are handled.

If we are requested to test other reels, this series will continue.

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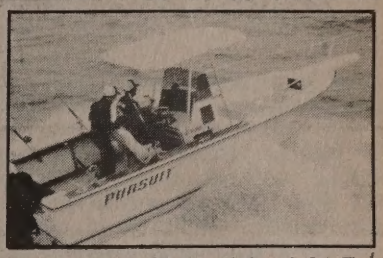

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A ROD WRAPPING JIG

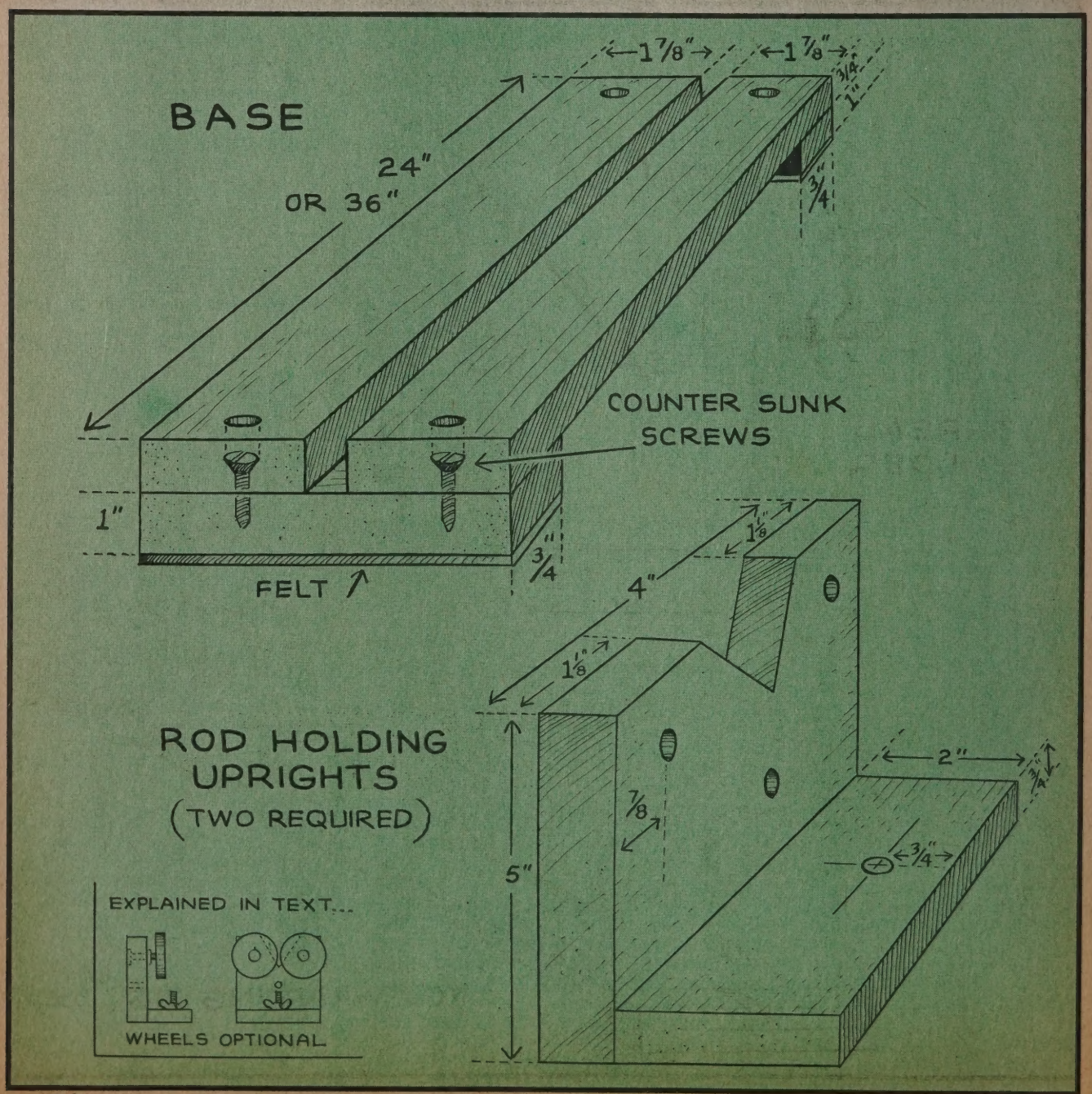
by Ray Rodgers

I call this whatchamacallit a jig because that's what it is. It is simple to make and when finished, it is very easy to use. Even the most lowly amateur can turn out a good wrap with this whatchamacallit. I made mine from the headboard of a maple bed. It is 3/4'' thick throughout.

The base (as pictured in the drawing) is 24'' or 36'' long and 4'' wide. The two runners that make the base are 1-7/8'' wide and set side by side with a 1/4'' space between them. They are screws on 1''x4'' pieces with 8-1'' countersunk screws. Felt is then cemented to the bottom of the 1''x4'' pieces to save the ''Little Woman's'' kitchen table. If you're like me, you have a ready made workbench right there in the kitchen. JUST DON'T SCRATCH IT!

The builder has a choice of the 24'' or the 36'' length. The 24'' length is great if there isn't much work space, but it does leave a lot to be desired. The 36'' length can handle a saltwater rod just as easy as an ultra-light freshwater rod. My choice was and still is the 36'' length.

The uprights (2) (as pictured in the drawing) are made from a 4''x5''x 3/4'' piece with a 1'' deep V cut in the middle starting 1-1/8'' in from the top outside edges. Drill 2-3/16'' holes 1/2'' down from the top edge on both sides and 7/8'' in from the side edge on both sides. These holes take 2-3/16''x2'' bolts and 6-3/16'' nuts that attach the wheels. The wheels



are the type off of a baby crib or walker or they can be bought new. They are made of plastic and have a tendency to slip on the rod. To solve this I cut a band the same width as the wheels from a 10 speed bicycle tube and stretched it around the wheel—instant traction.

To attach the wheels put a bolt through the hole in the wheel and put on two nuts. Tighten them together so they don't move. Then back them off just enough to let the wheel turn free and eliminate any wheel drag. Countersink the back side of the upright with a 5/16'' drill and press two nuts into the wood so they are flush. Now screw wheel assembly into place.

The upright is attached to the base with 1'' screws countersunk. Drill a 1/4'' hole below the wheels but centered otherwise. This hole is used strictly for storing purposes.

The uprights can be made without the wheels if so desired just by cementing felt strips into the V and use it that way. The wheels are better though and better yet they are permanent. The choice again is the builder's, but the extra time taken to install the wheels is well worth the effort.

The thread holder is one I saw in the January 14, 1982 issue of THE FISHERMAN, page 29. This unit worked so well that I threw the one I had away. I just changed the dimensions to suit my unit. This unit takes less space and the tension on the thread can be regulated much better than the one I had.

It is constructed of a base piece 2''x4''x3/4'' with a 1/4'' hole drilled 13-16'' from the front edge but centered otherwise. The upright is 2½''x4''x3/4'' with 2-3/16'' holes 2-1/8'' apart and centered in such a way as to keep the spool of thread centered. These holes take 2-3/16'' eyebolts with wing nuts and washers. A 1/4''x3'' bolt and nut is used to hold the thread spool in place. By tightening the eyebolt nut the spool is drawn up against the back side of the upright creating the tension needed.

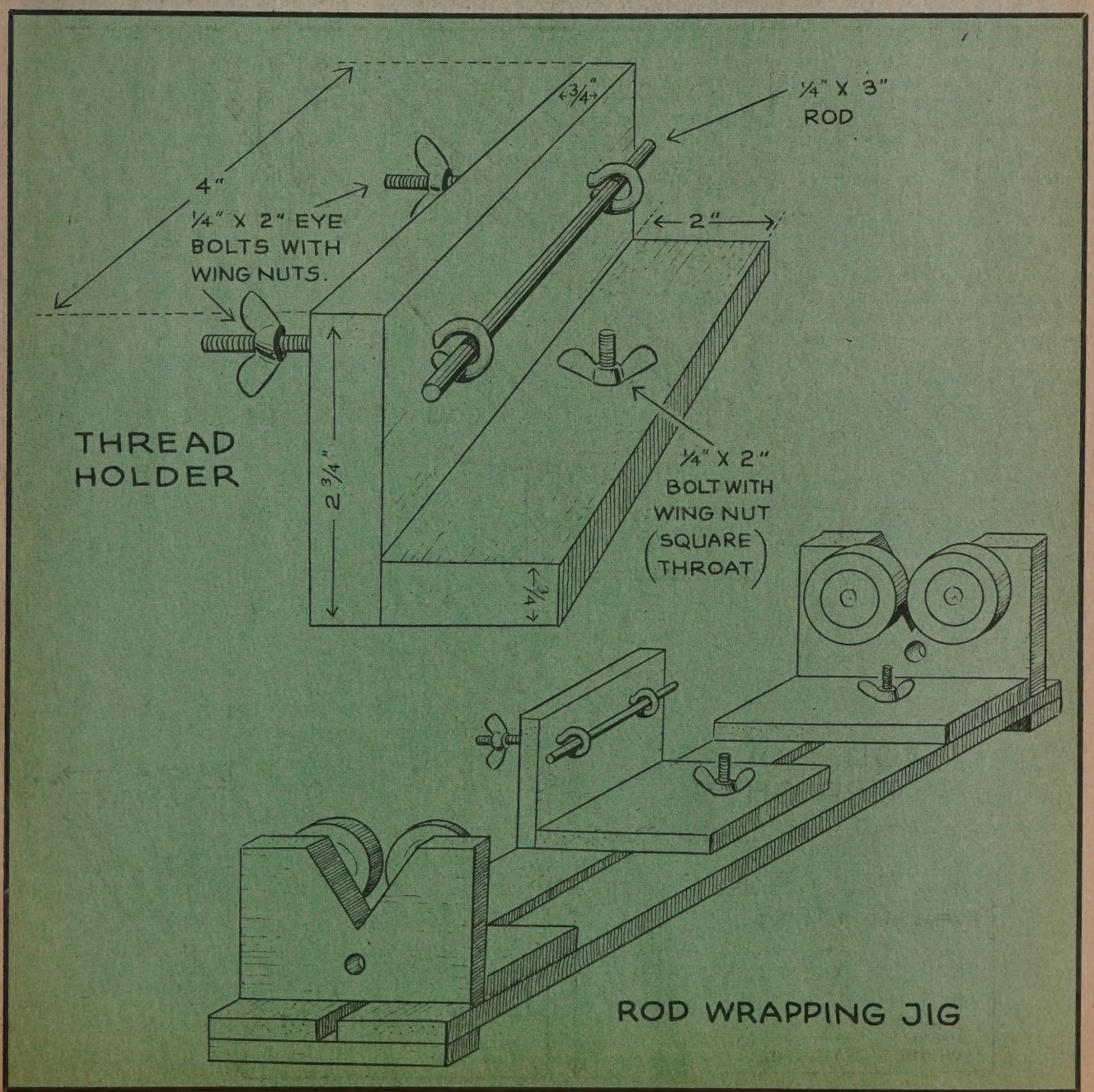
A better way to get better tension on the thread is to run it between this unit and the base by the bolt and tighten the wing nut. This is more accurate.

When assembled properly this unit helps to do a superb job getting wraps tight and even.

The thread holding unit moves side to side while the uprights move in or out whichever is needed.

When stored with the uprights lying flat it takes only 3''x4''x36'' worth of space. It can be hung anywhere out of the way.

Whoever builds this complete unit will have many happy wrappings.



BREEDING & RAISING NIGHT CRAWLERS

by Matt Ahern

Night crawlers can be a very acceptable flounder bait, especially in early spring and late fall when other baits may be hard to come by.

If you're like me, you know that the procurement of bait has always been a problem; sometimes minor, sometimes major. But none of us will deny that the nagging doubt of bait procurement is always there. No one knows how often flounder fishermen have arrived at their intended fishing place and found that worms weren't available at any price, but they must be legion. If you've been fishing for any length of time, this has happened to you more than once. But if you follow the information which follows, it need never happen again.

Before we get into the proper method of raising and storing night crawlers for bait, perhaps we should look a bit at this very important bit of life so necessary for the survival of the human race.

That last paragraph may raise eyebrows and seem farfetched. But let me quote something the great Charles Darwin had to say about earthworms:

"When we behold a wide, turf-covered expanse, we should remember that its smoothness, on which so much of its beauty depends, is mainly due to all the inequalities having been slowly leveled by the worms. It is a marvelous reflection that the whole top-soil over any such expanse has passed, and will again pass every few years, through the bodies of earthworms. It may be doubted if there are any other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as have these lowly creatures."

And if this isn't enough to convince you, let me add this: Thousands of years before Darwin, the Pharoahs of ancient Egypt knew the value of earthworms. One Pharoah went so far as to decree the death penalty for anyone attempting to remove even one from the country. Even farmers were forbidden to touch them!

So, as you can see, the lowly earthworm is no mean thing in Nature's universal plan. Indeed, some agricultural scientists believe man would have a difficult time existing on this planet without its aid, for the worm is Nature's plow. Millions of tons of earth are turned over and aerated as the worms burrow through the soil. Their droppings, called castings, are the richest fertilizer known to man. (Many florists sell this prepackaged for indoor horticulture.)

But back to things at hand.

Raising night crawlers is interesting and educational. To start off, you'll need a supply of worms. This is

There's little chance of this flounder fisherman running out of bait!

easy enough, especially if you live near a well-manicured golf course or well-kept lawn. If these are unavailable, you can also find worms along sidewalks, under trees, perhaps even your own backyard. They can be found wherever loamy soil is present. If worse comes to worse, you can order them from classified ads in those magazines which devote their pages to freshwater fishing.

The best time of year to gather worms is spring when plenty of moisture is available in the soil. This is the time when one sees night crawlers stretched out on sidewalks or in driveways, especially after a heavy rain. Later, when the weather becomes hot and the soil dry, they burrow into the earth seeking life-sustaining moisture. Then, unless you hunt them after a good, soaking rain, they are hard to come by.

I purposely used the word "hunt" instead of search, because that is exactly what you do when you go worming. The first mild night in early April, grab the kids (who love this sort of thing), a flashlight, and a container and hie yourself to the nearest patch of greenery.

Flash your light cautiously as you walk along slowly and QUIETLY. The least vibration or heavy footfall will send the night crawler into its burrow with eye-blinking speed.

If you have succeeded thus far, your light will reveal the worm fully extended upon the damp earth, its tail partly in its burrow. Immediately shift the light to the side—worms are extremely sensitive to cold light. Reach down, but instead of grabbing hold, which seems the natural thing to do, pin it down with one hand and lift with the other.

Be careful here. The worm, sensing your presence, will immediately flare its tail, tightening its grip on the burrow wall. Don't pull! If you do, you are sure to come up with half a worm. Just exert LIGHT, steady pressure. The worm will soon relax its tug of war, enabling you to pick it up easily. This will take a little practice, but eventually you will be able to gather one after the other without difficulty.

It is a simple matter to capture a couple hundred night crawlers in a few hours when conditions are right. As night crawlers are super-sensitive to light, some wormers cover their flashlight lens with a piece of red cellophane. They may have a point and if it works for them, fine, but I have taken tens of thousands of night crawlers without the aid of a lens cover and have missed very few.

To raise night crawlers for both fishing and future supply, you will need two containers: one for immediate bait use, and one for storage of your breeding stock.

The best containers are of plastic (metal will also do). Plain wood boxes, unless tightly constructed, will allow your worms to escape through the seams—and it doesn't matter how small the seam. They'll find it! Any suitable container measuring two feet in diameter and one foot in depth will be satisfactory.

Fill the containers with a mixture of loamy soil and dead, slightly crumbled hardwood leaves. Mix thoroughly, but don't pack tightly. Place your worms on top of this bedding, dividing the worms into the proportions you wish to use. They will soon work their way down into the container, leaving the dead and injured on top where they may be discarded or used for bait the next day.

The best storage place is a corner of your garage or outside under a shade tree. It is extremely important to keep your worms cool. Night crawlers will positively die if exposed to temperatures above 70° for any appreciable length of time.

This is easily taken care of by burying the container to its rim in the cool earth. You should, however, take care to shield it from rain as the container has no drainage. Cover with a board and hand-water once a week, or as needed. Not too much; an excess of water will make the worms soft and weak; many will die.

It is just as important to keep your worms from freezing as it is from overheating. At the approach of winter, remove them from the garage or backyard and place in the coolest part of your cellar. They will keep until spring, when they should be removed, given a fresh supply of bedding and returned outdoors.

What to feed your night crawlers is no problem. With but few exceptions they will eat anything you eat. All food is grist to their mill, but some are better than others. Corn meal, oatmeal, dried coffee grounds, chicken feeds such as laying mash, starting mash, and other finely ground meals are readily eaten.

When feeding any of these foods, scatter it lightly on top of the bedding. The worms will come to the surface at night and begin eating. Replenish only when you see the last feeding has been consumed. **Don't** overfeed: excess food will sour and kill your worms.

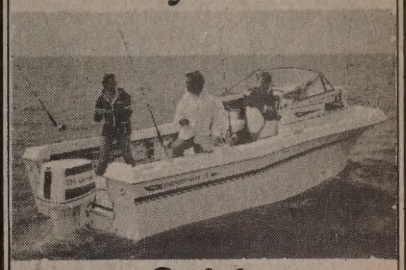
When the worms have taken up housekeeping in earnest and are happy in their environment, they will begin breeding. Night crawlers, and all other worms, are bi-sexual. Each is a complete male and female, but one cannot fertilize itself and must come into contact with another worm to perform the breeding act.

If everything goes well, your breeders will shed a capsule every 21 days. This capsule contains from four to six baby worms. A word of caution here: don't disturb your breeders by pawing through the bedding. They will stop breeding for a week or more if you do.

That's all there is to breeding and raising nightwalkers. If you follow the directions as given, you will always have bait on hand when needed. No more will you find you must return home because bait was impossible to get.

And isn't that a nice thought?

1983
Grady-White



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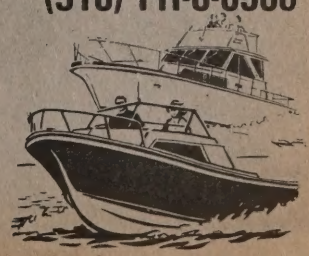

GET THE ANGLE ON OPEN BOAT COD

by Jason Colby

If open bottom codfishing is your game, then here's some advice that's sure to put more cod in your bag.

It was the day after Thanksgiving, 1974. I boarded the Ginnie-Mae, an Island Park party boat and was met by Capt. Bill Henriques, who immediately offered me a cup of hot coffee. I took him up on the offer as it was cold and windy; in general, it looked like we were in for a sloppy day.

On the way out, Vic, the mate said the codfishing had been "picky at best." We made our first drop on the Glory Grounds, S/SW of Jones Inlet and after an hour without any action, the skipper headed southeast.

It was getting pretty bouncy by the time we made our second drop. A few guys were getting a little green at about the time a man in the stern set-up on a good fish. After a few minutes of gives and take, a cod of about 25 lbs. rolled to the surface and was greeted by Vic's gaff.

"Dead sticking" often pays big dividends on the winter cod grounds.

I had my rod tied to the port corner of the stern and was admiring the man's codfish when someone grabbed me, spun me around, and said "Pay attention!" My rod was straining violently at the rail and I fumbled with my "tie down" line. When all was free, I stuck my rod tip to the water, took up all the slack and swung up hard. I savored the moment as the middle of my rod arched high over the tip. My rod bucked and my drag gave up line during the fish's efforts to remain on the bottom. Luck was in my favor though, and soon Vic stuck a fish of about 20 lbs.

Other boats settled into the area throughout the morning and everyone seemed to be catching fish, as long as they were in the stern. On the Ginnie-Mae, things weren't too bad as we only had 12 passengers aboard, but on some of the larger party boats I could see the crowds pushed disproportionately into one spot.

By about one o'clock, I had seven cod in the boat, but the man to my left had one over 30 pounds which was certain to cop the pool. Since nobody had caught a fish in the last half hour and it was getting late, the fish looked like a shoo-in.

Having nothing to lose by leaving my now barren spot, I ventured to the starboard bow (the exact opposite side of the boat) and cast as far as I could into the wind. Now I really felt the cold wind, not to mention the "roller coaster effect," exaggerated by my new location. I didn't have much time to dwell on the situation, though, as my rod was jolted hard. Setting the hook wasn't necessary because the fish had already taken care of that and was steaming along the bottom towards the anchor. I thought that odd at the time, since all the larger fish I caught in the stern had run down current.

Eventually, I turned the fish and worked it to the surface. Fortunately, Capt. Bill saw my predicament from the wheelhouse and came up to help me with the gaff (nobody heard me

yelling as everyone else was cuddled in the stern). Well, to make a long story short...everyone wound up in the bow and we had a fantastic hour of fishing before packing it in. Besides all that, I won the pool and got a job on the Ginnie-Mae that I would keep for about five years. What a day!

The story behind the story though, started when I arrived home that day. I couldn't help but wonder why the fish started in the stern and then moved to the bow. I checked the tide tables and sure enough, slack tide was about 12:20 that afternoon. So what? Even after that, the water seemed to be moving from bow to stern, just like the wind, the waves and our lines. Therefore, the chum we were using should have been doing the same and the cod should have stayed in the stern all day. I was confused.

Everything came together years later while seated in a college oceanography class. I learned of a phenomenon called Eckman's Spiral which basically deals with variations of water direction (movement) in subsequent layers. In simple English, it means that if the water on the surface is moving in one direction, the water on the bottom can be moving in the OPPOSITE direction.

Further questioning of my professor revealed that only the top few feet may move, as influenced by waves and wind. From there down through the next few layers, the water direction gradually turns in a spiraling movement until the true direction of the tide is reached. The depth at which the true direction occurs, varies according to the force and direction of wind and tide.

Armed with this new information, my codfish trips began revolving around wind/tide directions and changes. As mate, I often directed customers to the spot where they had the best chance of scoring.

A problem you may run into when casting into the wind (incoming tide/NW wind) is your sinker dragging back towards the stern. Heavier sinkers, lighter lines (I use 25 lb. test) and one hook is about all you can do in the tackle department to improve the situation.

Leaving a lot of slack after your sinker hits the bottom is a practice which will pay off in the long run as cod are less cautious when picking up a "dead" (still) bait. Bring along a two foot length of quarter inch line with a heavy sinker on one end. Lash your rod to the rail and keep your hands warm in your pockets. That's true "dead sticking," by the way.

A final note is that you can disregard much of this article in a wreck fishing situation. When you're anchored over a wreck, a dead stick/slack line will snag bottom repeatedly. In general, 25 lb. line will be too light and the direction of the tide and wind is less of a factor. Advice? Read about wreck fishing and good luck! I'll take mine on open bottom.

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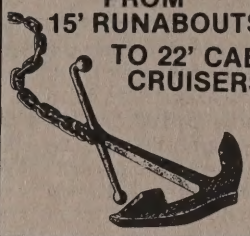

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TACKLE DOCTOR: Baits Can Make The Difference

Q. Over the years many of the members of our local fishing club have gone on outings for winter flounder. Although most of us have our own boats, it seems to be a delightful way to bring the end of a good fishing year to a close as we visit a head boat for a day of fun and fishing.

My question concerns the use of corn as chum. Some of the members say that corn gets stuck in the digestive tract of the flounder and since they can't digest it, they can't totally digest their food and eventually become puffed up and die.

Other men in the club say they have read that corn does not harm the flounder. Both sides get the idea that they are right and the other guy is wrong, but my concern is for the flounder. Are we, as fishermen, adding to environmental problems and killing off this lively game fish?

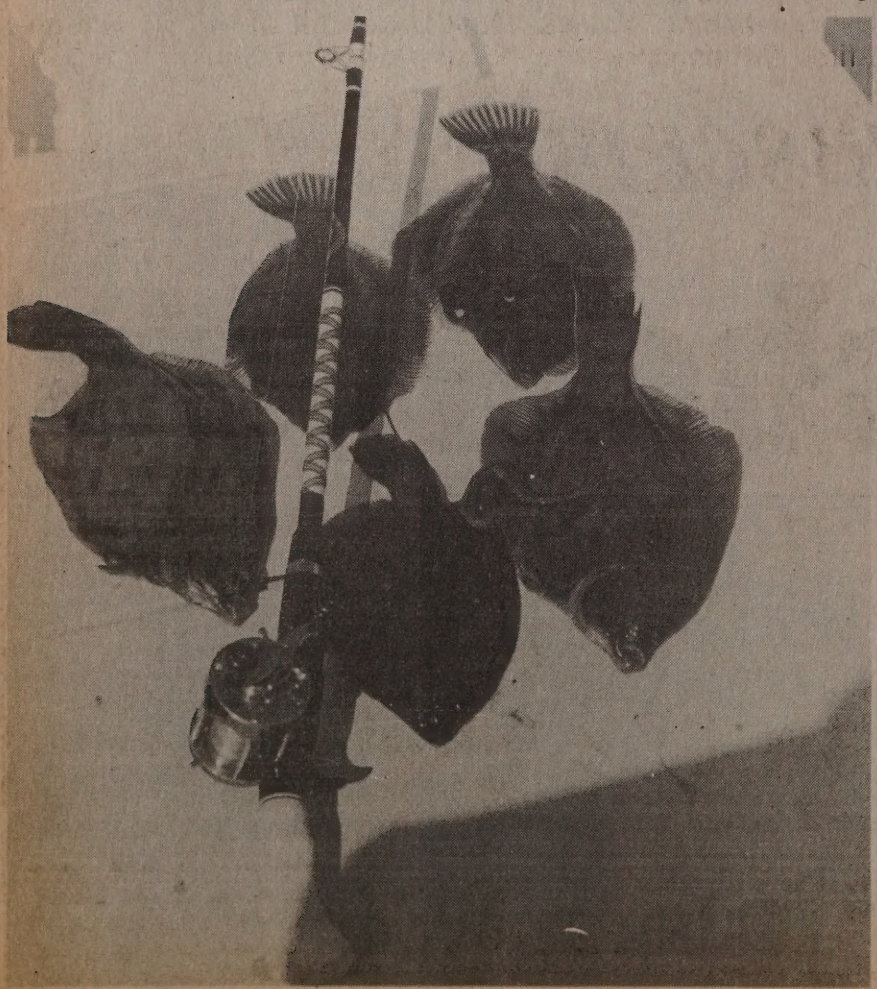
Can you set the record straight?

Earl Stanwell.

A. Every winter flounder season the rumor of corn plugging up the flounder starts to roll around the docks again. The answer, however, is a resounding NO! Flounder can, and do, eat corn used as bait or chum and it has no ill effect on them.

A study completed by some New York biologists with winter flounder that were kept in a tank showed that corn when ingested by a flounder will not harm the fish. Those flatties in the tanks were fed worms, clams and mixtures of the above with niblets of corn. Others were fed nothing but corn. All the fish remained healthy and none died of clogged digestive tracts. Those that were fed only corn also gained weight over the test period which shows that the corn was also nourishing to the flounder.

We feel the worst part about using corn niblets as chum, are the empty cans we have often seen on the launch ramps, docks and bays where the flounder fishing is best. Like the backpackers say, "If you carried it in with you, carry it out!"



These flatties were induced by a mixture of corn and clam chum.

Q. I've been trying to catch my first shark and have used a couple of different kinds of baits. Unluckily, none of the baits have worked for me.

I've spent a lot of money on chum, shark tackle and frozen baits and nothing works. Sometimes I have seen sharks around my boat, but no matter what we do with the bait, the sharks won't touch them. What am I doing wrong?

Ralph Denton

A. Since you have had sharks near the boat, your chum slick appears to be working, so probably something with the bait is spooking the fish.

Some frozen baits lose their natural oiliness, go soft and look unappetizing to fish. Try fresh bait or fresh frozen. Some whole baits will tend to spin in the water, another sure fire spooker of sharks. Check the baits as you drift them back in the slick by holding the line tight for a moment when the bait is a few feet out in the slick. If the bait spins, bend the bait into shape or get rid of it.

Many sharkers prefer fillet baits because they usually don't spin as readily. Slice fillets off the sides of the bait, trim them to a taper and place on the hook skin to skin. Fillet baits have more action than whole baits and many sharkers find they have a higher strike ratio with them.

You should also check the depth of the baits. If you use three rods, one bait should be at 60 feet down, another at 45 and another at 30. From one day to the next you will usually see a pattern where the strikes will tend to come at one particular level. This allows you to cover three different feeding zones and results in more interest from sharks at all levels. If all your baits are high, you'll miss the lower level sharks. The opposite, if all the baits are low, you'll miss the topwater cruisers.

When you get "lookers" in the slick that won't eat, try tossing a chunk bait (no hook) near the shark. Sometimes a tasty chunk, and then another will get the shark into a feeding mood. After he takes one or more chunks, drop a hooked fillet near him. It usually works. Watch The Fisherman *this spring for more info on sharking.*

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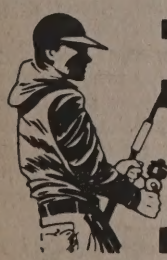

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DELUXE FLUKE ROD

by Kevin Bogan

Fluke fishing enjoys a tremendous amount of popularity because they are relatively easy to catch, found in a large variety of areas (rivers, bays, all along the coast) and also provide excellent eating qualities. Fluking provides a "drift and dream" atmosphere to the fisherman and, in my opinion, if you are looking for the lazy way out, this is the way to go.

Fluke can be caught by a variety of methods, bucktails, small jigs, bait dressed with lure parts, and the most popular method—bait alone.

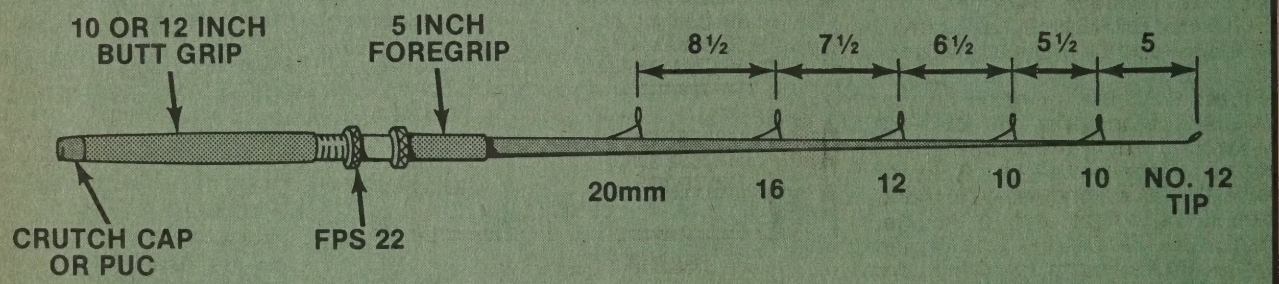
The most interesting thing that I have found while fluking is that sea and weather conditions can vary from dead calm to downright nasty all in one day's time. And these conditions are frequent!

The small boat angler may fish in the river (10-20 feet deep) and the ocean (15-60 feet deep) all in one outing. A variety of weights will have to be used to suit the depth. With conditions, depths, and style changing as rapidly as they do, it's easy to see that the boat would be overloaded with rods if you had one to fit each need. Here's a way to lighten the load to make room for the beer.

Blank: The Fenwick SP 729 is a rare find for versatility if ever there was one. Until you get your hands on one you would not believe the power to weight ratio. It's a super lightweight with the power of a shotgun. Its six foot length is just right for party boat drifting. For small boats it's never in the way. You could cut this blank down (six inches off the butt end) to make it even easier to handle in boats under 18' where elbow room is hard to find. The tip is rated 1-3 oz., which is ideal for bucktails and light sinkers. What's this? A strong south wind coming up? No sweat; put on a 6 oz. sinker and switch this baby on "Power Reserve." No need to head home.

The action is medium. Medium action is necessary for a fluke rod for the same reason every boat has a net. Fluke have soft mouths that make it a danger to swing or lift out of the water. Most anglers seem to believe that a fluke sucks in the bait or grabs hold of it with caution, ready to drop it at the first signs of monkey business.

Sensitivity plays an important role here. While trolling in a river or drifting in the ocean, the sinker is constantly bouncing across the



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Fenwick 729	
Lamiglas SMB842F	**cut back 4" off top, 2" off bottom**
Australian SS2	**cut back 4" off top, 2" off bottom**
Dynaflex 6704	**cut back 4" off top, 2" off bottom**
Shakespeare 0569B	**cut back 3" off top, 3" off bottom**
Graphite:	
Fischer 1880	**7' leave tip as is**
Lamiglas GLB841M	**7' leave tip as is**

SPACING: **From tip to each guide center**
5"-5½"-6½"-7½"-8½"

GRIPS: **Any Hypalon, PVC or cork**
12" butt grip
5" foregrip

REEL SEAT: **Fuji FPS 24**
Varmac LW1
Lakeland 3160
Varmac RS1 Aluminum

bottom, causing the rod to vibrate repeatedly. To tell the difference between a fluke bite and the rough bottom, a rigid tip and stiff rod works best. This stiffness allows the angler to feel the difference, plus provide for positive hooking power. These are the same features that make graphite rods popular. Unlike a graphite rod, however, the 729 is very inexpensive and can compete all the way with any blank made.

Guides: While on the subject of a lightweight blank or rod, I should point out a new guide on the market by Fuji. The SVLG series is a three-footed design similar to the Fuji NHG series. It has strong, stainless steel framework which holds the guide rings slightly higher from the rod shaft than most, perhaps all, of the guides in its class (e.g., spin, boat, casting). This elevation makes for easier spacing of guides on all rods.

Another feature is the elimination of the nylon shock ring. This saves a considerable amount of weight throughout the guide set and allows for faster heat dissipation caused by the abrasion of the line on the guide's surface. One other important note is that the oxide guide ring has been polished to be even smoother than the conventional aluminum oxide ring. This could help further to prevent line wear. The new name: Hardloy.

Fuji NHG, BRHG or Dynaflo guides by Daiwa would be first class alternatives.

Grips: A variety of grips can be used. Any foam grip will do with Mouseskin and veltex being the lightest of the synthetics. A lot of people still have a preference for cork, which is very light and, of course, sensitive. A 10-12'' rear grip should provide ample length to tuck under an arm, but is not too long to be handled easily in a small boat. A 5'' foregrip is adequate assuming that you're unlikely to confront too many high stress situations.

Tips: For those fishing off party boats a longer rod, up to 7' may be preferred. Graphite rods are becoming more popular as the prices drop down from year to year. Choosing blanks for this rod is easy because there are so many alternatives to choose from to suit the style reel you choose. This rod works best with reels such as the Penn: #155, 160, 9MS, Daiwa 27H suited with 15-20 lb. test line. For other small bait casters or spin reels (10-17 lb. test), an excellent second choice would be the Lamiglas SMB842F, or the Dynaflex 6704.

Reel Seat: To keep the rod low in weight a Fuji FPS #22 is a good choice. This graphite filled seat also provides good sensitivity. Any reel seat will do that is corrosion resistant, but keep in mind if you want aluminum, stick with Varmac. They use only the finest in marine aluminum and have a super tough anodized coating. Their reel hoods are also sturdy enough to prevent tearing loose.

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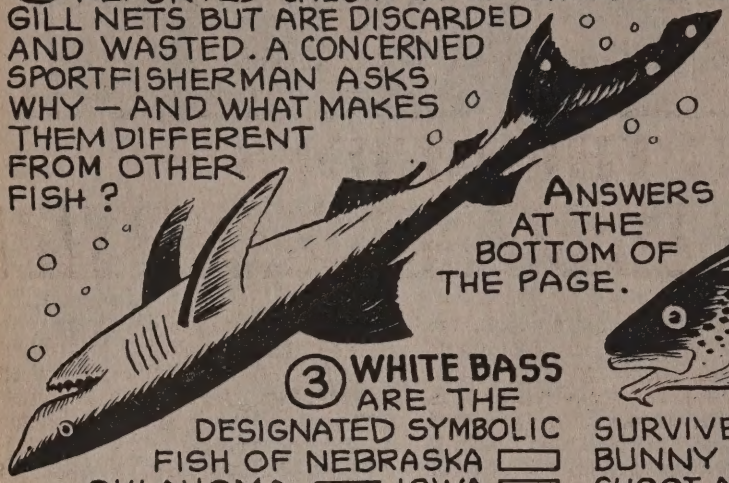
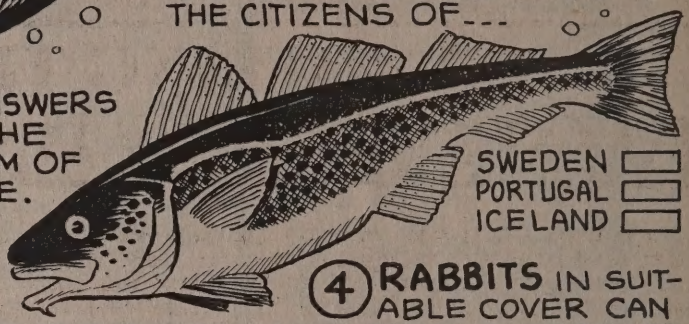
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) **BLUE SHARKS** IN HUGE NUMBERS ARE REPORTED CAUGHT IN OFFSHORE DRIFT GILL NETS BUT ARE DISCARDED AND WASTED. A CONCERNED SPORTFISHERMAN ASKS WHY — AND WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER FISH ?



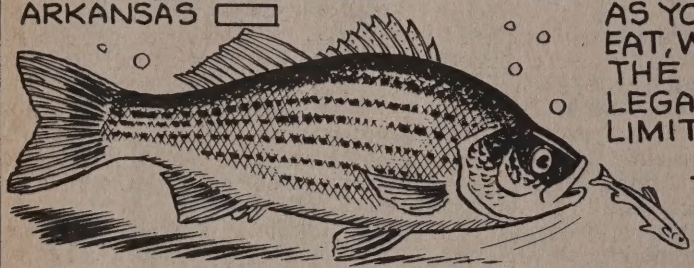
ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

(2) **CODFISH** ARE CONSUMED FOR LUNCH AND DINNER ALMOST EVERY DAY — MORE COD-FISH EATEN THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE IN THE WORLD — BY THE CITIZENS OF---



SWEDEN ☐
PORTUGAL ☐
ICELAND ☐

(3) **WHITE BASS** ARE THE DESIGNATED SYMBOLIC FISH OF NEBRASKA ☐
OKLAHOMA ☐ IOWA ☐
ARKANSAS ☐



(4) **RABBITS** IN SUITABLE COVER CAN SURVIVE HEAVY HUNTING. IF YOU RELISH BUNNY MEAT YOU CAN SHOOT AS MANY AS YOU WILL EAT, WITHIN THE LEGAL LIMIT.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(5) **TIP-UPS** FOR ICE-FISHING, AT LEAST THE BEST TYPES, ALWAYS HAVE THEIR FISHING LINES AND SPOOL REELS SUBMERGED... ...UNDER THE ICE SO... ...THEY WON'T------

WHEN FISH TAKES LINE, REVOLVING SPOOL PULLS...

...TRIGGER AND FLAG SPRINGS UP.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(6) **WHAT** IS THE BIG DEMAND FOR OLD-FASHIONED REVOLVING PIANO STOOLS A MUSICIAN READER ASKS US AFTER A FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR THESE ITEMS ?

1 - THEY REQUIRE ON-THE-SPOT BLEEDING AND DRESSING TO BE SUITABLE FOR SALE. 2 - PORTUGAL. 3 - OKLAHOMA. 4 - TRUE. 5 - FREEZE. 6 - THEY ARE IN BIG DEMAND FOR USE IN DUCK BLINDS BECAUSE ON PIANO STOOLS SITTING HUNTERS CAN SWING AROUND FAST FOR A SHOT AT THE PASSING BIRDS.

CUSTOM ROD BUILDING:

by Dave Arbeitman & Grant Toman

WRAPPING THE GUIDES

Photo One: Use a file, grinding wheel or dremel tool to shape the guide feet to a gentle taper. This will help the thread wraps to gracefully move up the guide foot and will prevent cracks in the finish after the rod is completed.

Photo Two: Tape the guide in position and use a ruler to measure the distance out from the guide feet that you want the wraps to cover. Most rods look attractive with 1/2 to 3/4 of wrap from the tip of the guide foot. Mark this distance with a grease pencil.

Photo Three: Remove the guide. Tape the end of the thread an inch or two toward the center of the wrap. Begin winding the thread in a wide spacing toward the mark you made for the edge of the wrap. This first wrap is called the underwrap and it protects the rod blank from being scuffed or damaged by the guide feet.

Photo Four: As the wrap meets the pencil mark, wrap it back over itself so the threads criss-cross.

Photo Five: Make six or more turns of the threads, remove the tape and cut the tag end of the thread with a scissors. Continue wrapping down the blank until you get near the second boundary mark.

Photo Six: Place a loop of monofilament line under the last turn of thread when the wraps are about six to eight turns from the edge mark. The loop always goes to the same side as the direction you are wrapping.

Photo Seven: After you reach the edge mark, place your finger on the last wrap to hold it in place. Cut the thread and pass the end through the loop of monofilament.

Photo Eight: Pull the monofilament loop through the wraps. This tucks the end of the threads back under the last few wraps and secures the end of the thread so it won't unravel.

Photo Nine: Cut the end of the thread off flush with the underwraps.

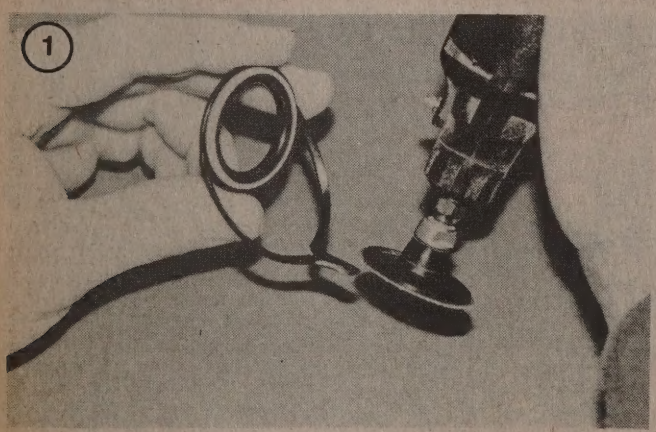
Photo Ten: Use a burnishing tool to smooth over any gaps, high spots or misaligned threads.

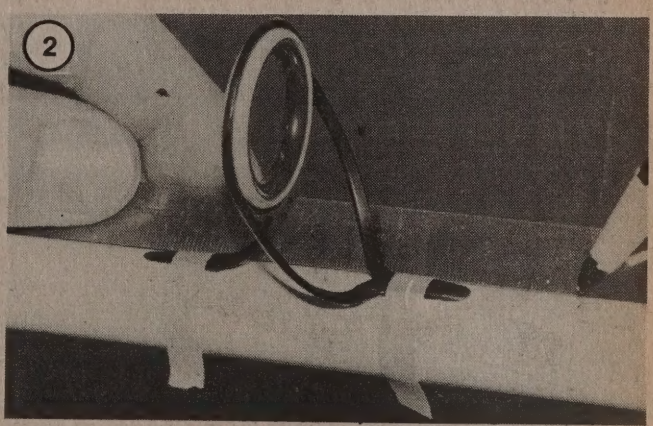
Photo Eleven: End wraps, also called checks or end checks, are an effective way to jazz up a custom rod, and these simple wraps are usually found on every custom rod. Start the end check by taping the thread in place to the outside of the wraps, winding the thread towards the underwrap, then crossing back over itself in the same way you started the underwrap.

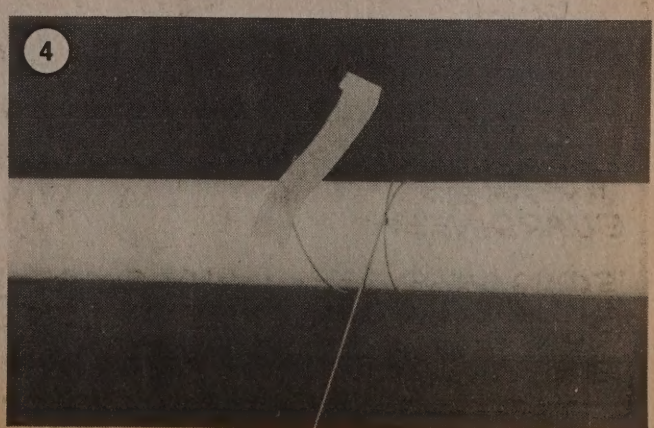
Photo Twelve: After three wraps, remove the tape and cut the tag end as close as possible to the wrap windings with a single edged razor blade.

Photo Thirteen: Make one more

(Continued on next page.)





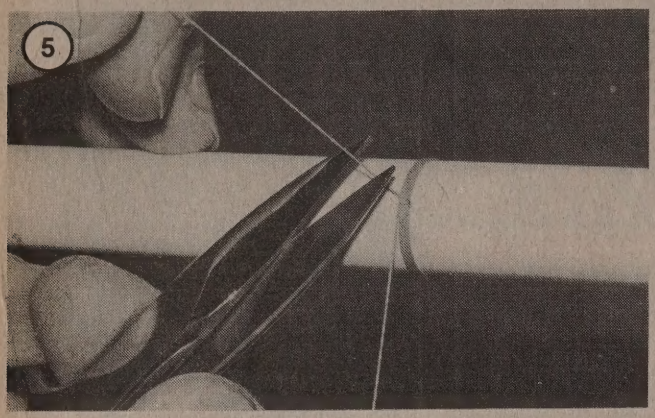


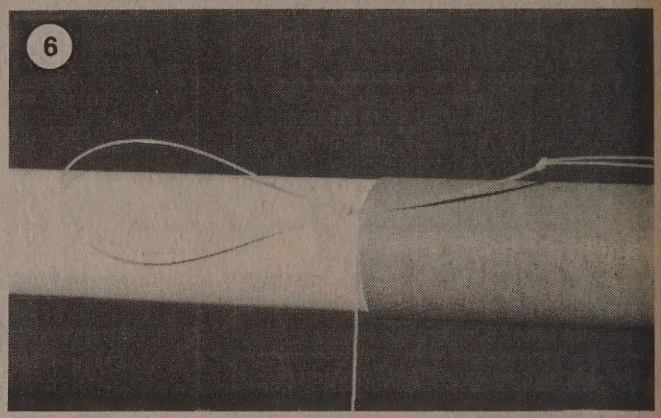
turn of the thread and place a monofilament loop under that last wrap. The loop again goes on the same side as the direction you are winding.

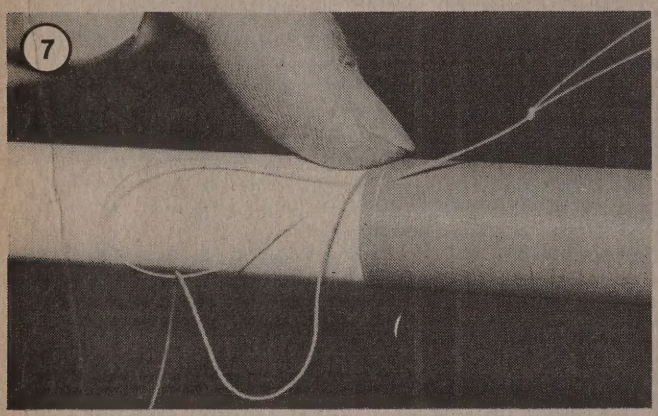
Photo Fourteen: Continue the wraps for three more turns, cut the thread, pull it through the loop. Cut the tag end close up to the thread, then burnish with a rubbing tool to line up the wraps and to smooth over any irregularities. Do another end check on the other end of the underwraps.

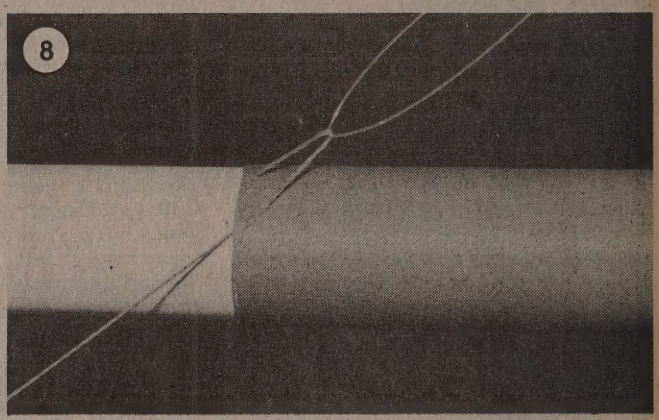
Photo Fifteen: Lay the ruler against completed underwrap and end checks. Measure **in** the same distance you measure **out** when you began the underwrap. This will position the guide.

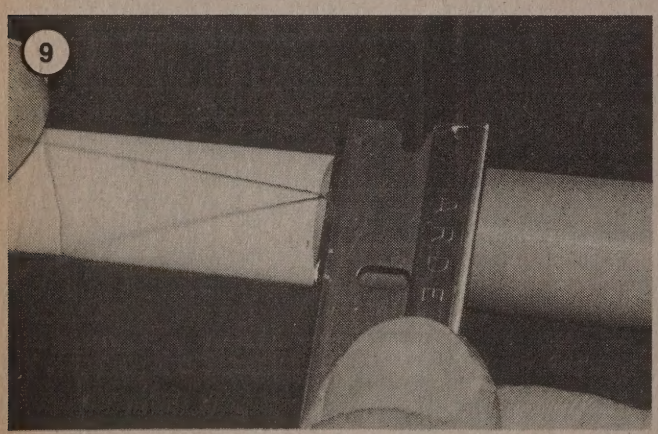
Photo Sixteen: Tape the guide in

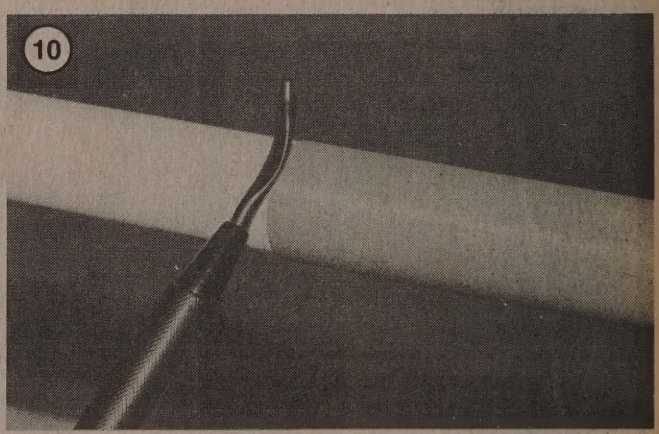


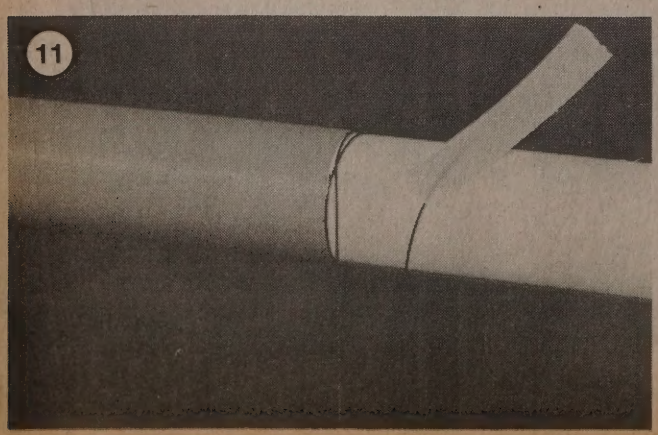


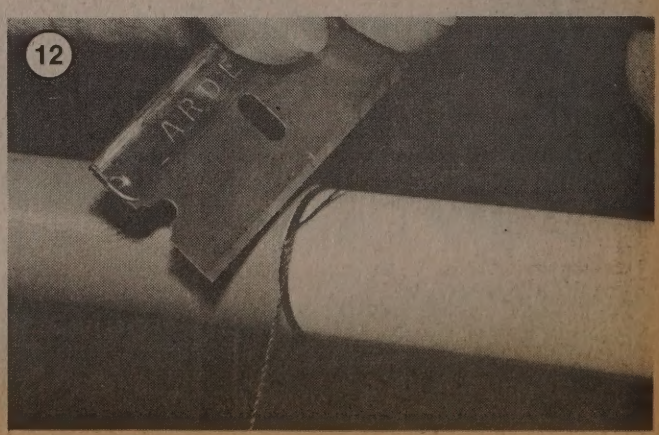












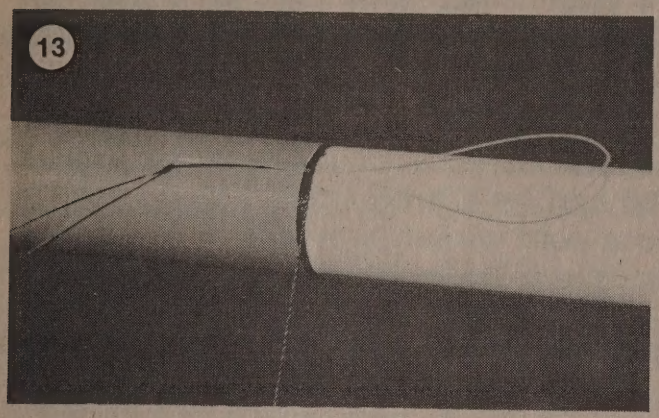
position. Make sure it is aligned with the spline mark you made just ahead of the fore grip. Tape the tag end of the thread and begin the wrap.

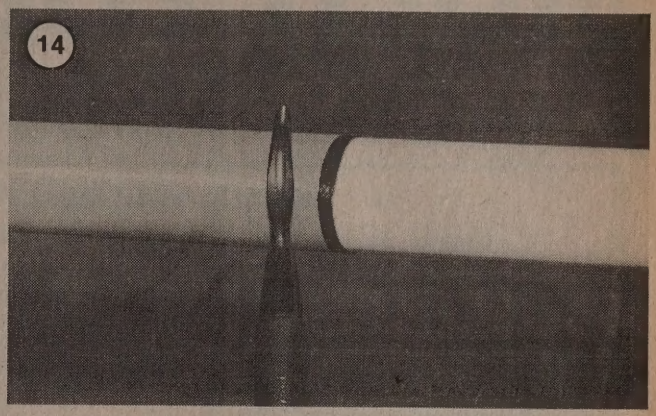
Photo Seventeen: Wind toward the outside of the wraps, crossing the threads on the underside of the rod. Now wind toward the guide.

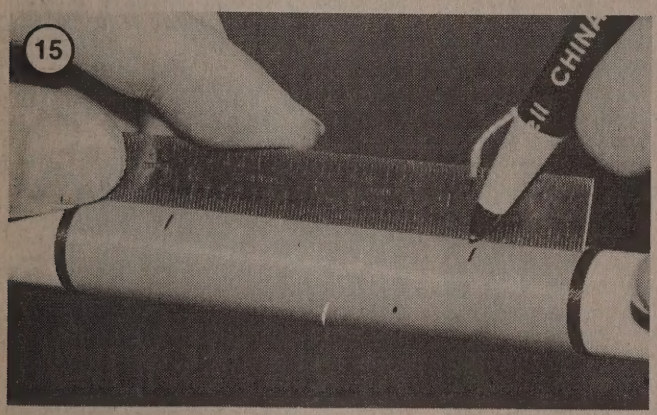
Photo Eighteen: Cut the tag end close to the wraps, continue wrapping up onto the guide foot. Remove the tape from the guide and wrap toward the base of the guide.

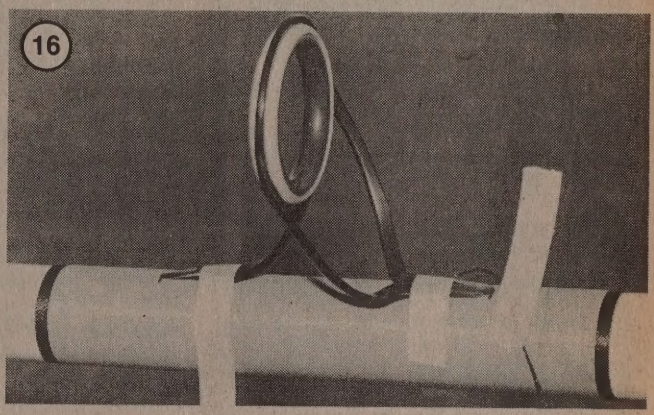
Photo Nineteen: Wrap until the threads are about six to eight wraps from the base of the guide. Place a monofilament loop under the last thread on the underside of the guide.

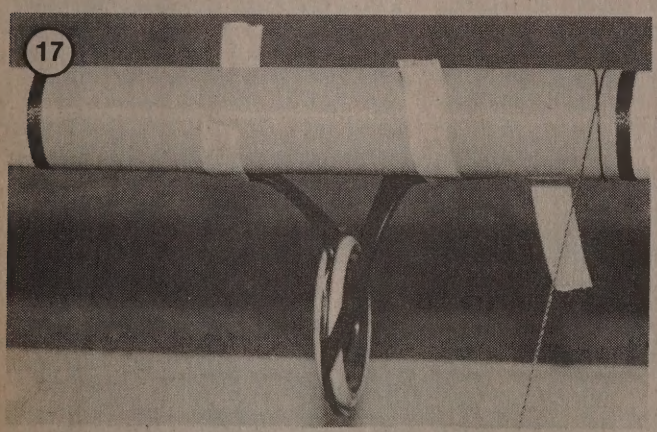
Photo Twenty: Wrap to the guide foot, pull the loop through, cut the tag end and burnish.

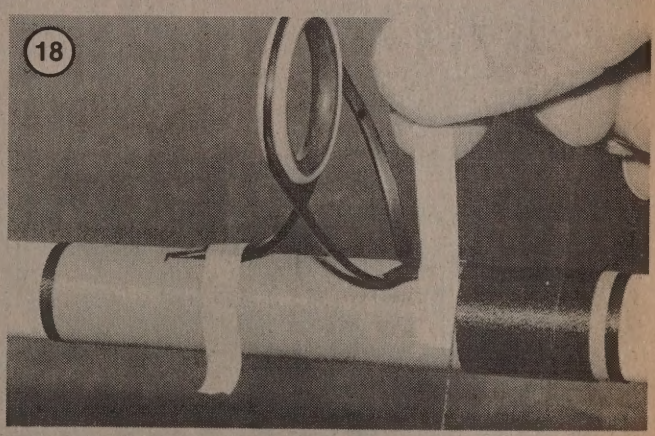


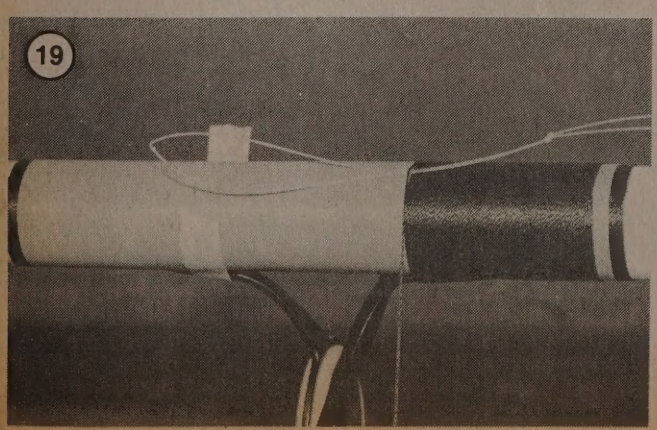


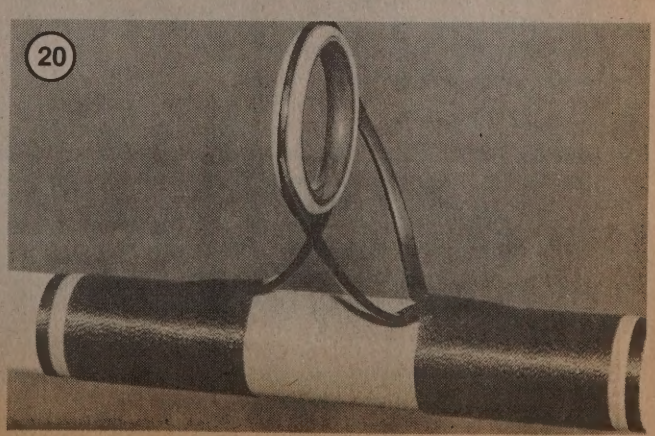












NOW'S THE TIME TO MOLD YOUR FUTURE

by Gerald Hahn

Molding your own lead can be a productive and fun way to pass a cold winter night.

If you intend to fish for the rest of your life, as I do, then one of the cheapest investments you can make is in a sinker mold. I have several molds that I bought about a decade ago, and their cost has been recouped many times over. Of the molds I own, two in particular are used time and again, since my fishing requirements are basically along two lines: bank sinkers weighing one to five ounces for the surf, small boat fishing, and occasionally party boats; diamond sinkers from 8 to 14 ounces for party boat fishing.

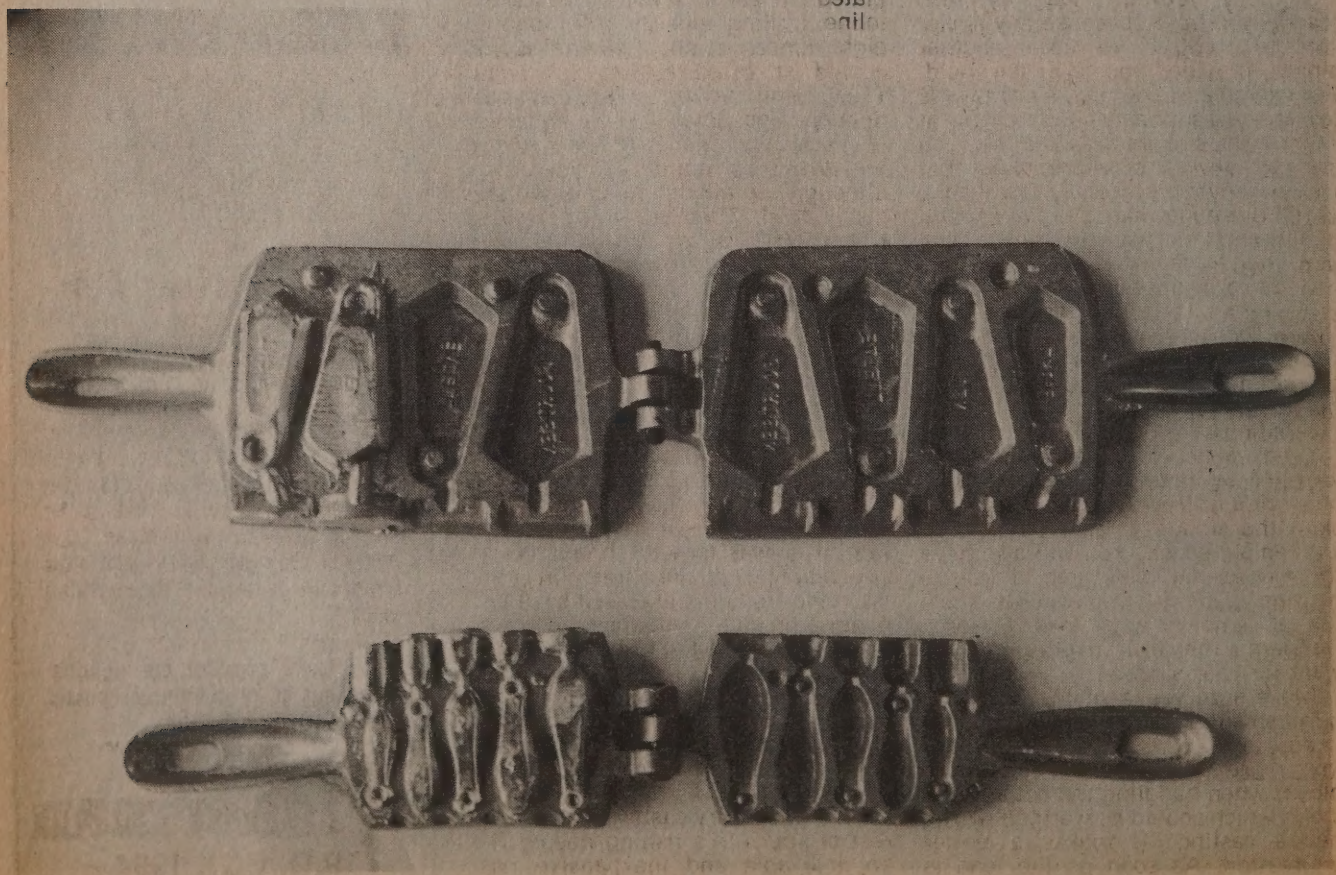
The molds for these and other sinkers are made of aluminum and are so simple to use that in a few hours you can produce enough sinkers for the entire season, indeed, for several seasons. Moreover, there is a mold to match any specific requirement: molds for making split-shot sinkers, snagless sinkers, egg sinkers, cannonball and in-line trolling sinkers, etc.

A recent survey of prices at several tackle shops and mail order houses revealed the following prices for molds:

TYPE OF MOLD	PRICE
Banks, 4-9 oz.	**$6.50**
Banks, 8-16 oz.	**$8.00**
Banks, 1-5 oz.	**$6.00**
Diamond, 8-14 oz.	**$8.00**
Pyramid, 1-5 oz.	**$6.50**
Pyramid, 2-8 oz.	**$7.50**
Egg, ½-8 oz.	**$8.00**
Snagless, 1-4 oz.	**$6.60**

These prices are average, and although other suppliers may be more expensive than the ones I researched, I doubt that any of these molds would cost more than $10. Of course, I haven't added in the cost of lead and accessories, but these are so nominal, as you will see, that the savings can be considerable, especially for cod and tautog anglers who lose many sinkers during the course of a season.

Along with the mold, you will need a pot in which to heat the lead. Electric melting pots or hot pots sell for between $20 and $25, but I have an old heavy saucepan that has served me well this past decade, and no doubt it cost considerably less than an electric pot. It must be said, however, that one advantage of the electric pot



Two popular molds: top one is for diamond sinkers in the 8-14 oz. range, while the one at bottom produces bank sinkers in the 1-5 oz. range.

is that you can do your cooking away from the kitchen stove, a consideration that will make your wife happy. A pouring ladle for $1.50 is not really necessary, but does simplify the pouring process.

The last thing you will need, of course, is lead, which is not so difficult to acquire if you give it some thought. For instance, whenever I buy new tires for my car, which is frequent in pot-hole city, I give the mechanic a buck or two, and he lets me fill a box with enough lead-balancing weights to last for years. Lead-balancing weights are those string-bean-shaped gray things on your tire wheels. Your friendly auto mechanic also has a supply of weights, and if you give him plenty of business, he'll probably give you a fair amount for nothing. In fact, I often find the weights embedded in New York's gutters while taking my dog on her daily sojourn. I'm training her to be a lead-hound.

Other sources of lead are the terminal posts from a dead car battery and "leading" used in typography and printing shops. Today, many firms are converting to phototype, and discarding "hot type" which is made of metal, including strips of lead for spacing lines and words in magazine articles, such as this one. Finally, the simplest thing to do is buy the cheapest lead available at a scrap metal or plumbing supply shop. One place offered to sell me lead at 75 cents a pound, which comes to less than a nickel an ounce.

Actually, you don't need as much lead as you think, because any sinker can be recycled to form another sinker, provided you have the mold. For example, if your supply of lead is low and you suddenly need a couple of 14 oz. bank sinkers for a cod trip, you can melt several smaller sinkers that you already have. Simply toss half a dozen five ounce banks in the pot and melt them; then pour the molten lead into your large mold, and you have two 14 oz. sinkers! If you're not planning another cod trip in the near future, you can re-recycle the large banks back to small banks. There may be no interest in this kind of investment, but your assets will be liquid, diversified—so to speak.

Lead melts quickly, but if your supply is as mine—full of grease and other impurities—you will need to skim the sludge or slag off the top with an old spoon. You will also have to remove the metal tab if you're melting lead-balancing weights, since the tab is not made of lead. Beneath the slag is the clear silvery broth you want for your sinkers.

Make sure you heat the lead to a purplish-silver glow, in a well-ventilated place, because the fumes are toxic. Use potholders or heat-proof gloves when handling the pot and the mold, which should be warmed a little before casting. It makes a better impression. As soon as the lead is melted and clean, turn the mold with the pouring holes up, and while pressing the handles together pour the lead into the holes, all the way to the top. The lead solidifies in a few seconds, and the mold is then ready to be opened. Using pliers, pry the cast sinkers out of the mold and either let them cool or plunge them in a bucket of cold water. Then pry off the "sprue," the excess lead that forms at the filling hole, and toss it back in the pot for recycling. Check the sinker for flashing or sharp burrs, especially around the seam and the eyelet. The burrs can cut your fishing line. File these smooth. I remove any burrs inside the small eye of the sinker, by driving a nail of appropriate thickness through the eye and into a block of wood. The nail reams the sinker eye to a smooth finish.

The lead you acquire can also be used for other fishing items, such as the bottom of a homemade chum pot or the weight and balance of a homemade plug. Indeed, there are molds for making a variety of leadhead jigs. The molds cost around $6 each for sizes ranging from 1/16 to one ounce and then you will need a box of jig hooks which might cost another $4 or $5. Once the jig is cast, you can paint the head and add a soft plastic tail, such as a shrimp, tout, grub or jelly-worm (all of which, by the way, can also be made from molds), or tie natural or synthetic bucktail or feathers.

In fact, with a little ingenuity you can even fashion a diamond jig for choppers. Most jigs are made of some inexpensive alloy and then electro-plated. Invest in a mold for making inline trolling sinkers from one to eight ounces, at about $6 and buy 50 coated or brass eyelets for about $1.50, and you're ready to cast diamond jigs. Since the trolling sinker is round, you should file it into flat surfaces (as many as you like, although two will do). Lead is soft and easily filed. Then cover the trolling sinker with strips of self-sticking chromed mylar, an inexpensive item available by the yard in any plastic store, as well as in some tackle shops. I use chrome mylar on worn jigs, and have found it just as effective as the original chrome. Last year, I fashioned one of these "drail-jigs," added a barrel swivel between two split rings and a 7/0 Limerick with a split-tail tube. The contraption caught three choppers in the 10 lb. class, as well as a three-foot dogfish, before the mylar was torn to shreds. At $1 (on sale) to $2.50 per three ounce jig, an inline trolling sinker will save you money, providing you lose the jigs to blues. The more you lose, in fact, the cheaper they are.

The drail, of course, can also be used for trolling or for fashioning a chain-n-drail rig, the kind Montauk anglers use for catching alligator blues.

This winter, try casting lead for the rest of your life's fishing needs. It's an enjoyable and inexpensive pastime. Mold your angling future this winter.

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BUILD YOURSELF A LINE WINDER

by John Schauer

This simple and easily constructed item can prove to be a handy aid in the workshop of any angler.

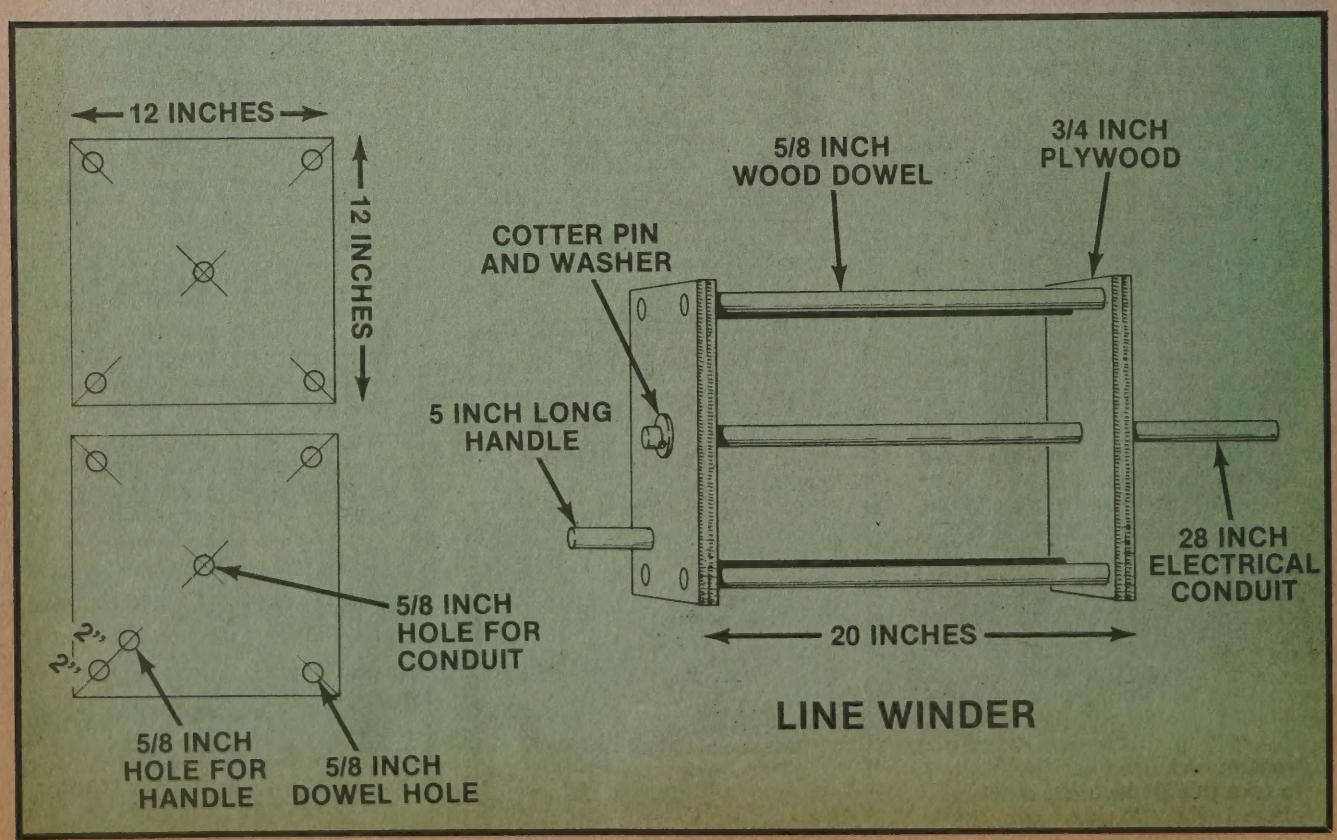
Well, I know what you're going to say: "This thing certainly looks like an old line dryer." Well, you know what? It is! Only you don't use it to dry line any more. Did you ever have your favorite reel loaded with 20 lb. line, and decide you would rather have 15 lb. on it? Well, you don't want to throw the 20 lb. away; so this is where the line winder comes in handy. Just mount the winder in a vise or use a "C" clamp to clamp the axle to a bench and take the line off the reel. If you decide to use the line at a later date, just wind the line back on the reel. You can also store several lengths of line on the winder at once; it is a perfect solution for the guy who only has a limited number of reels or lacks spare reel spools. With the winder, he can switch lines to his heart's content.

Making the rack is very simple and you might have most of the materials around the house. A list of the required materials is as follows:

- 2 end pieces—3/4" thick x 12" wide by 12" wide. (You can use shelving board or plywood)
- 4 pieces of 5/8" dowel 20" long (you could also use pieces of old broom handles)
- 1 piece of electrical conduit 1/2" or 5/8" in diameter, at least 28" long.
- 2 washers with a 1/2 or 5/8 inch inside hole.
- 1 piece 5/8 dowel 5" long
- 2 Cotter Pins at least one inch long
- 1 pkg. 5-minute Epoxy glue

Once you've gathered your materials you can begin assembly. First, cut the two end pieces 12"x13". Draw two lines connecting opposite corners on each end piece. Where they cross, drill a 5/8" center hole for the conduit. Now measure in two inches from each corner using the line as a guide and drill a 5/8" hole. You can use a 5/8" wood speed bit to drill the holes. Drill the 4 holes in each end piece. On one end piece, select one corner and measure in 4" from the corner and drill another 5/8" hole. This hole will be used for the crank handle. You can now glue the rack together.

The next step is to prepare the conduit. Measure in one inch from one end and drill a hole in the conduit big enough to insert a cotter pin, put the pin in, and bend the ends. Make sure that no sharp edges are protruding from the pin. Next slip on one washer, then the wooden rack and another washer. Finally, about 1/8" from the second washer, drill the second hole and insert the second cotter pin. The rack is now complete and you should have at least 6 or 7 inches of conduit sticking out one end. You can use a few methods to attach the winder to a bench. Either put the conduit in a vise or flatten the long end and clamp it to a bench using a "C" clamp. If you want to mount it more permanently, drill some holes in the flattened end and fasten it to the bench using screws.



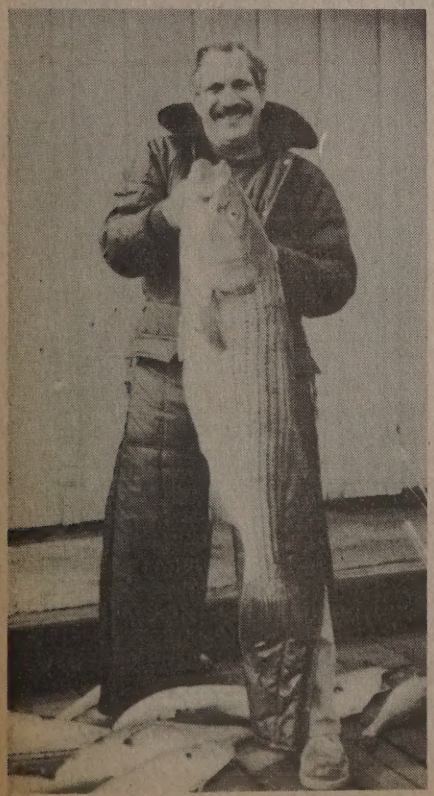
East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

The word from Capt. Paul Forsberg of Montauk's **Viking Fleet** is essentially that when there is decent weather and the sea's been reasonably docile for a day or two, catches are good. Despite a roll on Wednesday, catches ranged from fair to good. The general run of fish is from 3-15 lbs. with pools going to fish in the 20s or 30s. Catches are being made both on the hook and drifting, depending on conditions. As always, clam bait is doing the trick. Paul did not sail on the weekend due to extremely poor weather conditions.

Captain Paul Freitag of the charter boat **Bronco Explorer** called to advise that the boat is presently fishing the Tortugas out of Key West, Florida and is doing a super job on those Florida species. If you're going to be down there this winter, give the Bronco Explorer a call. If you need the phone number either see a Summer issue of LIF or call us at The Fisherman. The boat will be back in Montauk in the late spring and will be booking their specialty which is canyon trips.



Ira Kanarick used an "Ava" jig to take this 31 lb. striper while aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

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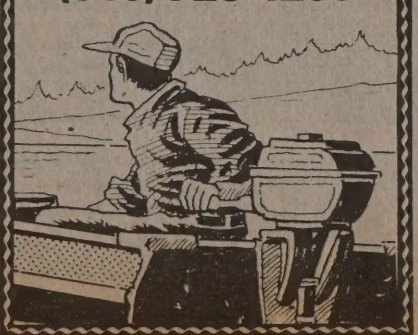

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Captan Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** told us that his boats had two good days during the week with 14 people on one of these days bagging over 100 cod. Saturday's trip saw 6 anglers take 40 cod up to 30 lbs. The fish are averaging 7-12 lbs. Speedy says there are plenty of fish around and with a few days of decent weather some very good catches can no doubt be made once more. This continues to be the best codfishing season as far as consistency goes in many, many years.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph I** says his fares were slim this week due to the bad weather conditions and threats of the big snowstorm Saturday, but Charlie agrees with Speedy that there are still mucho bacala around and all you need is the weatherman on your side to bag up.

Christian Lee, six, with an 8½ lb. weakfish caught off Breezy Point while drifting for fluke. Subscriber photo.

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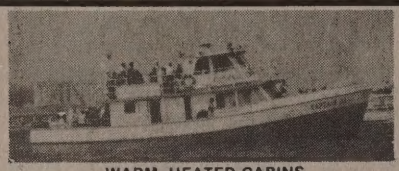
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Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

Captain Jimmy Lanzarotta aboard the **Super Spray II** advised that Saturday was vicious weatherwise and the boat had to return mid-morning. The boat got out and did a good job on various days during the week, with cod averaging 5-10 lbs. and pool fish going into the 30s. Larry Merryman of Babylon was happy with his 10 cod, while Earl French had five cod up to 30 pounds. On Friday, Mike Dowhunyk of Sheepshead Bay hoisted nine cod from 3 to 15 pounds. Fares are also taking an occasional blackfish.

Fourteen-year-old Billy Dion with a fine catch of weaks to 11 lbs. caught aboard his uncle's boat, My Moe, on the Tin Can Grounds.

Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** experienced the same brutal sea conditions early Saturday and called it a day before 11AM. Rich said that Friday was the last good day of fishing of the week with 50 cod hoisted for 18 fares. Oceanside angler Mike Gry scored with a 38 pounder while Fred Rangel of City Island was a close runner-up with a 37½ pound cod. The general run of fish ran 5 to 15 pounds. A 28 pound cod was brought up by Sid Brnests of Copiague. A few few in the 20s were also caught. Generally, fishing was good right through Friday.

On Friday approximately 90 cod were taken by 30 men aboard the **Capt. Al.** Fish averaged 8 to 15 pounds and the pool fish hit 30

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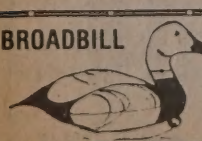

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pounds. Pool fish every day are generally in the high 20s to low 30s. With heavy weather last Monday and Tuesday, the ocean recuperated somewhat Wednesday and Thursday and some decent catches were had. The boat returned early Saturday due to the violent sea conditions but skipper Phil Lindroth filling in for his father Al Lindroth who is on vacation this week, said that the fish are there whenever there's a break in the weather.

With all of these experienced captains in full agreement that the wrecks, pieces and open bottom continue to be well inhabited with codfish, a planned trip on a day with decent weather should prove productive.

Jack Hooke with a 43 lb. white marlin and a mess of dolphin caught while vacationing in the Florida Keys. Subscriber photo.

EDITORIAL: Finally! A New Salt Water Launching Ramp

(Continued from page 2.)

employees would not have the privilege. In this way those who have enjoyed a traditional legal use would be grandfathered. When they retire or leave the facility, the access agreement with that individual comes to an end. Eventually all such grandfathered individuals will leave the facility and the complexity will no longer exist.

The grandfathered employees would be moved a short distance under such an arrangement so that boat traffic would not be bottlenecked and the employees' vessels would be more secure from possible accidents resulting from the flow of boats on and off the ramp.

The five-year process that will finally give us another saltwater launch ramp has been a tedious one. During these years we have exhibited great patience. We have gone the extra mile with the state and then went another mile when we were asked to do so. Our patience should not be interpreted as weakness, rather our perseverance viewed as an indication of our dedicated commitment to the construction of additional launch ramps on Long Island. The addition of this single ramp is a great victory, but in no way does it significantly change the discrepancy in the number of ramps on Long Island compared to those upstate. By 1983 we will have six Long Island ramps compared to 166 upstate. Clearly, we need more ramps on Long Island. We believe the office of Parks and Recreation understands this need and we believe they will continue to push for additional ramps in the future. We understand the effects of recession and budget cutbacks, but we also understand that the years of neglect must be addressed and some effort is owed to restore a better balance.

We aren't going away with this one. We'll be around to nag on this issue for a long time. We'll be dignified and patient in our efforts as long as our prodding is met in kind with truthful, sincere, and dignified responses. We believe that by working together the fishermen of Long Island and officials of state government agencies that interdigitate directly with fishermen can produce outcomes of mutual benefit with minimum stress and maximum results.

William A. Sproule

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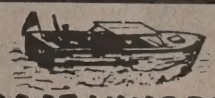

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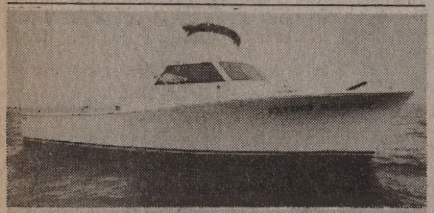

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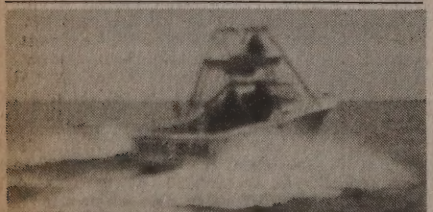

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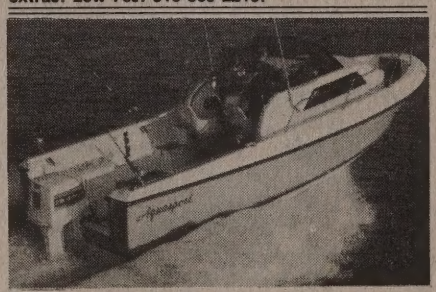

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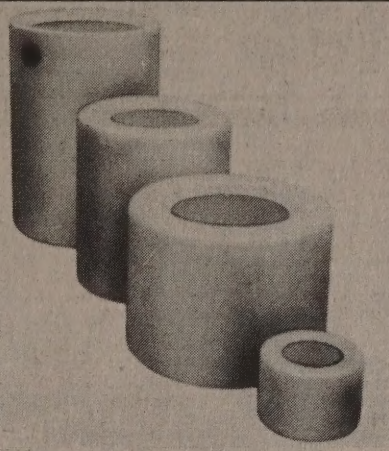

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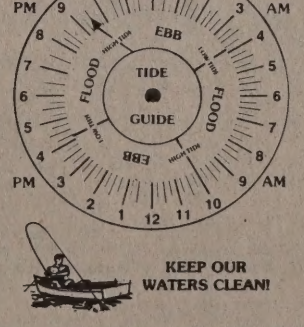

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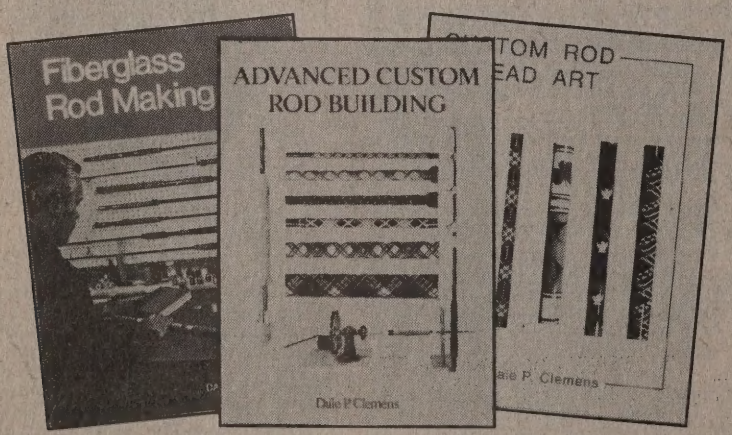

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